

City of Clearwater, Kansas
Sedgwick County
City Council Workshop - **MINUTES**
June 22, 2019
Clearwater City Hall – Council Chambers
129 E. Ross Avenue Clearwater, KS 67026

1. Call to Order/ Invocation and Flag Salute

Mayor Ussery called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

2. Roll Call

The City Clerk confirmed the presence of a quorum. The following members were present:

Mayor Burt Ussery, Councilmembers; Yvonne Coon, Laura Papish, Shirley Palmer-Witt, Tex Titterington, and Chris Griffin.

3. Discussion – 2020 Budget

Marsh stated there will be a hard stop at 11:00am

Mayor Ussery explained to the audience that this is a working session for the Governing Body, and this will not be open to the public comment unless asked by council.

Marsh began by stating 3% salary increase has been figured into the budget across the board as requested by the Mayor from the previous meeting. Staff has also reviewed all line item expenditures and has adjusted them accordingly to be more in line with actuals.

Marsh started out by explaining the following:

The starting cash for 2020 is proposed to be \$819,997.69, Revenues (excluding Ad Valorem taxes) is expected to be \$1,562,854.68, and as the budget has been presented in previous meetings the total expenditures rolls up to \$2,779,897.55. Marsh also explained we need to ensure there is a cash carryover to operate in 2021. The cash carryover is recommended to be 3 months' worth of operating for the General Fund by the auditor 3 months' worth is approximately \$800,000 but in order to keep the mill levy down as much as possible we have only budgeted to carry over \$650,000. With beginning cash, plus revenues, minus expenditures and cash carryover, the Ad Valorem Taxes need to be \$1,047,045.18 which equates to 64.08 mills. Debt Service for 2020 will be 1.45 mills and the Library will be 6 mills for a total of 71.32 mills. That will be an 11.67 mill increase for 2020.

Marsh went on to explain looking forward to 2021 without having the \$800,000 starting cash and not wanting to drop the cash carryover below \$650,000 the mill levy would go up again and we would be looking at another mill increase in 2021 of an additional 15 mills. That would take the mill levy in 2021 to around 86.00 mills.

Marsh then pointed out that Council requested at the previous meeting to see what the mill levy would look like if we weren't funding EMS moving forward. The mill increase for 2020 would be around 2.5 mills and that would also be keeping the cash carryover to \$800,000 instead of dropping it to \$650,000.

Mayor Ussery stated council should discuss if the EMS is sustainable or not.

Council discussion for the EMS included:

Should the city absorb the EMS and change the budget practice of cash carryover to ensure the city has adequate cash operating for the city?

The city has hired 3 full time personnel for EMS to make up ¼ of the State requirements for staffing an ambulance. We still need to rely on volunteers to fill the other ¾. Filling the volunteer half of the scheduling is still challenging. Leadership is trying to fill a week at a time but still some spots have been left unfilled. There has only been 2 consecutive weeks where all spots have been filled. The question remains is this practice sustainable?

It was pointed out that Clearwater is the last city in Sedgwick County with a volunteer EMS service. The other cities in Sedgwick County either use Sedgwick County or fund their own EMS 100%.

At the time of the voting in March it was obvious the room supported the decision to keep EMS but not sure if the community backed it. Council members pointed out that people they have talked to in the community, most of them didn't want their taxes to raise to pay for the service. Titterington said he was not at the meeting where the service was voted on, but he would have voted no due the cost.

If Council approves the budget and increases the mill levy to accommodate the EMS without a vote, then the mill increase for EMS can only be used for EMS it cannot go to pay for the police, fire, or even parks. Council discussed what would happen if the budget was approved and Clearwater was not able to meet the state requirements for running an ambulance transport and the state takes away our license? The answer is since the budget was already adopted at the higher funding level the council would not be able to decrease the budget after the fact. The citizens would have to pay for the increase even if the department was dissolved until 2021 when the next budget would be in place.

It was stated the average response call for Sedgwick county is 15-18 minutes. The county pre-positions themselves throughout the county where they high activity is. Southwest Wichita area is not a high impact area. Council thought if the City doesn't keep the ambulance service Sedgwick County should put in a new station in SW Sedgwick County.

Griffin pointed out that Sedgwick County stated that it would cost approximately \$500,000 to add coverage to Clearwater which would be covered by all of Sedgwick County taxpayers (about 400,000 people). Clearwater is looking at funding with full-time and volunteers for \$365,000 and only the citizens of Clearwater (about 2500 people) pay to keep the service local.

Papish pointed out that other cities around Wichita are round the 60 mills. If Clearwater moves forward with the increase to could force people to move out because taxes are too expensive or keep people from moving in for that same reason.

When talking about a first responder program council looked at what available resources, we have to make that work. Clearwater currently have 11 EMS volunteers that are also firefighters. If they choose to stay on, they would still be qualified to make first responder medical calls. Chief Hisle stated that the police department responds to 98% of the all EMS calls as first responders already. Chief Hisle suggested having all police personnel trained as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) to help with a first responder program. Ernie Misak also suggested that his staff should be trained as well as they are in town during the day.

If the City turned service over to the county, medically trained firefighters and police would show up on scene to help coordinate and stabilize patient and wait for County ambulance. This is the practice other communities do.

As it stands now as of July 1, 2019 Clearwater auto aid agreement with Sedgwick County expires. According to the State we will be on our own and must have 100% of our duty roster filled out and the people who are on the duty roster are the ones that must make the call, the State will be checking. The State has informed us that we are still under investigation.

Council decided it would be irresponsible to decide today without knowing what an alternative program would look like or cost. Council asked for staff to prepare a cost maintenance for first

responder program and what the capabilities would be and bring back to the governing body at the next meeting. At the next meeting council will revisit the cost of keeping the EMS, turning the service into a first responder program, or nothing.

Marsh then went through the enhancement list that was requested by each department.

Admin	13,000	Update firewalls, access points, antivirus, etc	
	15,000	Increase cyber security and IT support	
	1,000	Abatements	
	4,000	Update electronic sign	Council decided to not put money into the old sign as this is out of date. Suggestion was to move funds to equipment reserve to go toward the purchase of a new sign
	7,500	Discretionary	
	3,500	Control Access	
	1,500	New hallway door	
	25,000	2020 Housing incentives	Council discussed and asked to move \$5000 to marketing and only keep \$20,000 for housing incentives which equates to 8 homes instead of 10
	40,000	Transfer to Special Parks	
Sr. Center	600	My Senior Center – Annual	
	1400	Day Trips	
	2200	Folding Chairs	
	1000	New Sign for Center	
	700	Computer Desk stations	
Police	1,000	National Night Out	
	4,000	Part Time police clerk	
	1,500	Retention for new hires	
	15,000	Increase cyber security and IT support	
	5,000	Control Access	
	4,500	Ammo, Person & Car equip	
Court	4,000	Part Time police Clerk	
Public Works	2,000	Propane – annual	
	200	New office door	
	10,000	Dump Truck	
	3,500	Propane Heater for Shop	
EMS	750	iPad and case	
Fire	8,000	2 sets of bunker gear	
	1,000	2 sets of dry suits	
	10,000	1 SCBA	
	2,500	New air compressor	
Park	40,000	Park/ Facility Superintendent	
	1,000	Computer for new employee	
	800	Phone for new employee	
	2,000	Sand and Keel for Diamonds	
	500	Hand tools	

Pool	6,600	Yellow Slide Repair	
	2,700	Blue Slide Repair	
Capital Improvements	2,000	Downtown light décor	
	15,000	Comprehensive plan update	
	5,000	Discretionary	
Special Highway	1,500	Thermoplastic strips	
	2,800	GIS development	
Special Parks	5,000	3 sets of bleachers	
	5,500	Dugout protective fencing	
	29,500	Park improvements	
Water	3,200	On call pay	
	350	Retirement/ reception	
	550	Tablets	
	550	Radio replacement	
	1,015	GIS website hosting	
	500	Tools	
	6,000	Hydrants and valves	
	3,000	Water/ trash pumps	
	10,000	Dump truck	
	2,000	Tommy lift gate	
	14,249	GIS Development	
Sewer	3,200	On Call pay	
	350	Retirement/ reception	
	550	Tablets	
	2,098	GIS website hosting	
	500	Tools	
	10,900	Shoring	
	12,000	Reline manholes	
	10,000	OSHA tripod/ man lifting station	
	21,279	GIS development	

Marsh asked council to review all items. In their copy of the list were items highlighted in yellow that staff recommends putting off a year or decreasing.

Mayor Ussery asked staff to prepare a complete list and detail of the GIS development, IT support and cyber security, and to come up with what a budget would look like with and without funding for and EMS department and keeping a first responder program. Mayor Ussery asked council to review the list and the budget email staff with any questions they need answered for them to make suggestions. Any suggestions they have for saving or cutting to please email them to staff so that information can be prepared and discussed at the next meeting.

4. Adjournment

At 11:01am Mayor Ussery called the meeting adjourned. *Palmer-Witt* moved, *Coon* seconded.

CERTIFICATE

State of Kansas }
County of Sedgwick }
City of Clearwater }

I, Courtney Meyer, City Clerk of the City of Clearwater, Sedgwick County, Kansas, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the approved minutes of the June 22, 2019 City Council Workshop.

Given under my hand and official seal of the City of Clearwater, Kansas, this 9th day of July 2019

Courtney Meyer, City Clerk