

**CITY OF CUSTER CITY
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS – BUDGET SESSION
AUGUST 10th, 2009**

Mayor Harold D. Stickney called to order the first budget meeting of the Common Council for the month of August, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Present at roll call were Councilpersons Reetz, Starr, Murphey, Pischke, Schleining, Bob Morrison, Public Works Director, Rex Harris, Community Development Director, and Christine Redden, Finance Officer. The Pledge of Allegiance was stated.

AGENDA

Councilperson Murphey moved, with a second by Councilperson Schleining, to approve the agenda. The motion unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT

After discussion of the appointment of Patty Ressler as Ward I Councilperson, whom will be sworn in at the next regular meeting, Patty took part in the Budget meeting.

BUDGETS

Lynn Hix, 211 Helpline gave a short presentation on the services provided for about 40% of SD's population and this service is reaching about 78% of the US. The services range from whom do I call for to suicide prevention. The staff is well educated and trained professionals with some being paid and some are volunteer. They are very well trained to deal with the suicide hotline as well as knowing when to call 911 for additional assistance. By January 1st, the Southern Hills will be fully on line but there are some areas where people can already access the line by calling 211; this service also works with cells phones. Councilperson Murphey wondered if the counties are asked to participate since they have the majority of the population or what about a user fee on the monthly phone bills like the 911 surcharge. Lynn stated she would check on the requests for counties and get back to them. Councilperson Starr recommends approval due to the overall nature of the services but especially the suicide line. When asked, Lynn did say that this would be an annual request for subsidy. The Mayor thanked Lynn for coming and answering the various questions.

Discussion was held on the General Fund with the following:

- Property taxes – how the estimations were arrived at and a summary of the process between the City's requested amount and the County's collections.
- Sales Tax – estimations of collections, economic factors, and waiting to see what revenues will be at the end of August were discussed.
- Interfund Transfers and reserve allocations were touched on briefly. By using \$274,000 from the Liquor Fund and \$811,000 from reserves, the budget would be balanced but then there would only be \$64,000 left in Capital Outlay.
- Mayor and Council Dept. – discussion was held on changing the department for the insurance, land purchase, and deer management categories.
- Community Development – professional fees have increased for structural and environmental specialists.
- The Council requested a worksheet on the wages which includes the allocations per department.
- Councilperson Reetz couldn't figure out what employees were budgeted in the Finance Department.
- Attorney's fees - are increased due to the Council needing more coverage this year due to extenuating circumstances outside the normal business and the outlook isn't changing for next year either.
- Public Buildings – replacement of old doors to be automatic for ADA compliance. Also budgeted is the results of the study of security and traffic flow.
- Public Safety – fixing 8th Street light and discussion on continuing additional funding for the School's resource officer.
- Streets – the Council would like to see an overall equipment replacement schedule and discussion was held on the mag water and the amount needed in a wet year. Weed spraying is contracted with the County but RFP's might be looked at for next year.
- Hospital Subsidy - discussion was held on the good presentation that Jason Petik had given early this year but Councilperson Reetz stated that Dr. Joy would like to talk to the Council as she could provide better information than what we have been receiving.
- Custer Cruisin advertisements are cooperative efforts with Chamber and Sturgis Rally.
- Swimming Pool – as previously discussed, the pool repairs are mounting and there isn't the ability to patch much more. The cost submitted are for fiberglass re-lining, plumbing, and some in the shower house. Questions were raised on the number of days it was open, building a new one, closing the present one, and public/private cooperation. Councilperson Starr wondered if anyone would be interested in forming a subcommittee to study this issue; no one volunteered.
- Discussion was held on the Transportation budget and that it would be good if the service was expanded to provide rides similar to a taxi service. Discussion was held on contacting Mike Carter to find out how many non-emergency calls dispatch receives; maybe the 211 Helpline could alleviate the unnecessary ones.

- Parks – discussion was held on the Grace Coolidge Building and that Bob stated it will be stained and the braces worked on yet this year. Then next year, the chinking could be taken care of. Also, the additional \$70,000 would go towards the completion of Way Park as designed.
- Hard Paving – the figure of \$255,000 is scheduled for the 8th Street intersection which is deteriorating quickly. Councilperson Reetz stated that the property owners should be assessed. Discussion was held on the intersection being one of the busiest so it wouldn't be fair to those four landowners.
- Chip & Seal – the \$38,000 amount is budget for the Boot Hill area as the roads are eight years old.
- Curb & Gutter - discussion was held on assessments which the court has now declared it illegal to assess curb and gutter costs. Discussion was also held on sidewalks and the assessment process.
- Storm Drainage – the amount of \$475,000 is for the storm drain that runs between Montgomery and Harney Street; this would go all the way to Laughing Water Creek.
- Discussion was held on the replacement of the Spring Creek Bridge which gives access to the Sewer Treatment Plant and Kenny Springs. Then there was discussion on the 4th Street Bridge which needs repaired but it's the only access to that portion of town. Councilperson Reetz stated we don't need to address the bridge accesses for the Sewer Treatment Plant and 4th Street; we can't fund everything.

The next budget meeting will be held following the regular Council meeting on August 17th, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Stickney adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF CUSTER CITY

Christine Redden
Finance Officer

Harold D. Stickney
Mayor