



**CITY OF LITHONIA
MINUTES– SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
Tuesday June 20, 2023 @ 11:00 am**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting began at 11:02 am. Mayor Reynolds conducted roll call. Council members Howard, Honore, Inman and Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard were in attendance.

Council member Wynn was not in attendance during roll call.

Council member Wynn arrived at 11:23am.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motion – made by Council member Honore to approve the June 20, 2023 Special Called Budget Work Session agenda. Council member Howard seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

III. Discussion Items

a. FY 2024 Budget

Keshaa McGurn, the city's accountant provided a summary of the proposed fiscal year 2024 budget. She clarified some mistakes that were missed in last week's budget meeting and stated that there was currently 156 thousand dollars in cushion.

Council member Howard asked for clarification on the Grand fund, how it would be received and if the City should include the amount as revenue in the City's budget. Chief Dejarnette explained the exceptions to the grant in terms of what it could be used for and how the money is held with the state upon receipt of invoices and then paid directly. There was much discussion about whether these funds should be included in the City's income or shown as a reduction in expenses on the Public Safety side.

Chief Dejarnette stated that the final details of the grant will be presented at the first council meeting in July.

Ms. McGurn suggested that any adjustments be made to the Public Safety budget as the grant would be used to offset their expenses.

Council member Howard asked to revisit the projected salaries. Ms. McGurn explained that adjustments have been made but they are not where she's recommended. Council member Inman stated she felt the 6% increase was too much from a business standpoint and that the increase

should be 3% across the board.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard stated she was not a fan of touching the salaries but thought that Council should take a look at the Computers, Supplies, and Software lines. She asked Chief Dejarnette to look at the amount of money allocated to this line and can the city hold off on some of the potential upgrades this year to address other priorities. Chief Dejarnette pointed out the estimated amount in the budget in this line is higher than necessary and based on the inflated costs of upgrading the phones and updating to fiber last year. He explained that the number could be decreased to 25 thousand.

Council member Honore stated that he was in favor of the police increase. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard and Councilmember Wynn agreed.

Councilmember Sheppard asked to see what the numbers would be at a 4.5% increase for the remaining employees, public safety, and public works. She stated that she would like to see employee evaluations implemented to justify employee salary increases. Council member Honore stated that there are no performance reviews on Police Officers and that any issues with the police are addressed with the Chief of Police. He agreed with the implementation of performance evaluations for the Public Works department.

Council member Inman asked if a budget must be balanced in order to be passed. Ms. McGurn stated that the budget must be balanced when submitted. City Clerk, Ashley Waters, confirmed the budget must be balanced. Council member Inman recommended placing half of the anticipated grant funding in the unallocated section of the budget.

Chief Dejarnette stated that he agreed with half of the anticipated grant funding being allocated and coming to Council for a budget adjustment as or if needed, Councilmember Honore agreed and stated that there will be other budget discussions to revisit if things are not going well. Ms. McGurn stated that she would be comfortable proceeding with classifying half of the grant as fund balance unassigned and coming back for an adjustment as needed.

Council member Howard asked about the vehicles and the amount allocated to payments for new vehicles. Chief Dejarnette explained that he was willing to adjust the 48 thousand allocated to 40 thousand.

There was much discussion about Public Safety and expenses. Council member Inman requested a Special Called meeting about Public Safety vehicles, performance evaluations, and other issues addressed in this meeting.

Ms. McGurn and Chief Dejarnette agreed to take the vehicle request from three vehicles to one and she adjusted the increase for Public Works to one dollar an hour for each employee.

Ms. McGurn answered several questions from Council member Howard regarding revenue line items.

IV. Adjournment

Motion – made by council member Howard to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Sheppard seconded.

Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting ended at 1:00 pm.



Mayor Shameka Reynolds

Attest:



City Clerk