

**City of Columbus  
City Council Budget Workshop  
August 28, 2013**

The August 28, 2013 meeting of the City of Columbus Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Mayor Dave Povolny at the City Hall. Present were Council Members Denny Peterson, Jeff Duraine, Bill Krebs & Jessie Messina. City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko; Deputy Treasurer Lynette Olinger and Deputy Clerk Emmy Robinson.

Absent: None.

Also in attendance were: Rick Robinson, Sandie Wood, Terry Phinney, Pat Preiner, Mary Preiner.

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**DISCUSSION: 2013 BUDGET (HANDOUT AT MEETING)**

A 2014 Budget Workshop handout dated August 28, 2013 was included in the agenda packet.

**BUDGET SUMMARY 2014**

Park Board

Sandy Wood and Terry Pfinney presented tonight for the Park Board. The budget will be basically flat with a slight decrease of \$150. The YMCA program will be continued, the cost was a range, and the number of participants was low but is expected to increase.

The Lawn Care budget includes Tru Green service and mowing services. The Park Board is discussing the need for dragging the fields and may make some changes to the schedule. There was discussion regarding field maintenance. (Dragging, marking, etc) The Park Board is proposing increasing field fees. The recommendation is to raise the price per field to \$15 for a 4 hour period. This is comparable to surrounding communities.

The unknown in the budget is the contract for park maintenance next year and the cost for replacing the telephone poles.

Mayor Dave Povolny suggested the Park Board look at options to address the limited parking available at the Columbus City Park. Mr. Phinney said parking is adequate most times, there is excessive traffic is during tournaments. This could be added to the park Board's "to do" list.

Revenues – Park Board

The City Administrator reviewed the budget summary and revenues for the Park Board at this time, and explained that because reserve dollars were used last year, the levy for 2014 will increase by that amount (\$3,000).

The consensus was to support the amount proposed for 2014.

There was discussion on how the city could save money, it was suggested that Howard Lake Park be vacated. East Bethel has an adopt a Park program, the Park Board could look into that. In addition the Park Board should look for other cost savings in maintenance of the parks.

Transportation Fund:

The decrease here is reflected under the Debt Service.

Public Safety

This was a known increase due to police and fire budget increases. The Fire Fund may change depending on the outcome for the Fire Marshal position.

The City Administrator continued the review of the Budget Summary page from the handout.

The 2013 and 2014 budget and levy numbers are included on the summary and reflect an increase of 0.19% in the budget and 1.62% in the levy before debt service. With the bond payments the 2013 and 2014 budget and levy numbers reflects an increase of 2.85% in the budget and 4.64% in the levy is reflected. This year the city is under levy limits. Debt service is exempted out of the levy limits.

The City Administrator reviewed the exemptions to the levy limits on the budget summary page at this time and the Other Specific Levies. The budget as it exists today is under levy limits. Other specific levies include the Sunrise WMO Fund and Economic Development Authority's budget. The HRA levy is a separate line item on tax statements. The EDA levy is included in the city's tax levy. This will remain until the Quad 35 land is sold. This results in an increase of 5.18% in the budget and 7.51% in the levy.

The budget discussion was continued to the City Council meeting tonight; see the minutes for the continued discussion.

At the September 11<sup>th</sup> City council meeting a vote must be taken to accept the preliminary levy. Questions or changes should be submitted to the City Administrator as soon as possible.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion* by Messina to adjourn. Second by Krebs.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Emilia S. Robinson  
Deputy Clerk