

Minutes of The Special Price City Council Meeting

City Hall: Price, Utah

May 19, 1998, 7:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Lou Colosimo

Councilmembers: Roy Nikas, Betty P. Wheeler, Joe L. Piccolo, Steve Bringham, Stephen L. Denison

Vernon W. Jones (Adminis. Ass't.), Joanne Lessar (City Recorder), Pat Larsen (Finance Director), Gary Sonntag (PWC Dir/City Engineer)

1. BUDGET WORKSHOP - FY1998/99

Pat Larsen presented the proposed budget pertaining to personnel for the FY1998/99. Included in the budget is a 3.1% cost of living increase and wage adjustment. Retirement rates increased .23% for regular employees and .33% for the Police Department non-contributory and .25% for contributory. The rate for Workers Compensation insurance decreased, but the modification rate increased so it will have to be calculated. Insurance rates increased 6%. The increase in benefits total 9.33% over last year. Requested increases from the supervisors amount to \$17,000. The cost of living and wage adjustment is approximately \$75,000. Sales tax revenue was increased .7% and property tax was increased 20%. The hiring of a Human Resource Director was discussed. It was the consensus of the Council that this person be hired to handle personnel, policies and procedures, job descriptions, etc.

The Council discussed the rates that Utah Power and Light charges its customers versus the rates the City charges. It was recommended to match UP&L rates this year and possibly reduce it a little next year. It was also recommended that electric rates be decreased 3% in light of the increase in other taxes. This reduction could be offset by using the fund balance in the Electric Fund. Increasing electric rates for home occupied businesses was also discussed.

Pat stated that a fund for Capital Improvement Projects will be adopted over the next year or two. This fund will be called the Main Street Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk, Drainage project. The description will be broad enough to include whatever the Agency wants to do in the Redevelopment area. Whatever money is placed in this fund will be committed to these projects.

The Council discussed the request of the Carbon County Commission to change the rate the Cities are being charged to house their prisoners in the County Jail. The current charges are \$12/day. The Commissioners have requested an increase to \$52.54/day effective July 1, 1998. Also discussed was library fees, costs for fire and rescue, and jail and dispatch fees.

The Council revisited the increase in benefits for employees and discussed what was best for employees - pay the increase in medical and dental premiums or increase wages, or reduce the retirement rate and increase wages. The 6% increase in medical and dental premiums total \$31,000 and the .23% increase in retirement rates total \$1,000. It was the consensus of the Council that the increase in medical and dental premiums and retirement rates for this year be paid by the City. The cost of living and wage adjustment will be 3.1%.

The Council discussed the request by the supervisors for wage increases for either themselves or their employees and if it is justified. It was recommended that these requests be placed on hold until a Human Resource Director is hired, and a tool is in place that can justify these requests. It was felt that the 6 month probationary increase and reclassifications be approved and all others be denied. Pat recommended leaving the money in the budget for the requested increases until the Human Resource Director is hired and can review it and make a recommendation. The Council directed that Kent Boyack receive a \$200/month increase and Paul Wheeler receive a \$75/month increase effective July 1, 1998, and that the Volunteer Fireman receive the cost of living and wage adjustment.

Costs associated with travel was reviewed. It was felt that the travel fund should be justified - such as specific details as to what training costs are, what seminar costs are, and what overnight and meal costs are. Pat will work with the supervisors on this detail.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.