City of St. Helens

Budget Committee

Budget Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2015

Council & Members Present:

Randy Peterson, Mayor

Doug Morten, Council President

Keith Locke, Councilor Susan Conn, Councilor Ginny Carlson, Councilor

Patrick Birkle, Committee Member

Michael Funderburg, Committee Member

Garrett Lines, Committee Chair Bill Eagle, Committee Member Paul Barlow, Committee Member

Staff Present:

John Walsh, City Administrator

Jon Ellis, Finance Director Terry Moss, Police Chief

Sue Nelson, Interim Public Works Co-Director Neal Sheppeard, Interim Public Works Co-Director

Margaret Jeffries, Library Director Lisa Scholl, Committee Secretary

Members Absent:

None

Others:

None

Chair Lines called the meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

Visitors Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

The April 28, 2015 minutes were distributed and posted online. Hearing no corrections, the Committee approved the April 28, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.

Overview of Budget

Finance Director Ellis presented a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Review Scrivener Errors - Corrections

Finance Director Ellis reviewed the scrivener errors.

Motion: Committee Member Funderburg moved to accept the corrections as presented. Councilor Conn seconded. All in favor; none opposed; motion carries.

Review – Capital Budget

Finance Director Ellis reviewed the Capital budget.

Interim Public Works Co-Director Nelson reviewed the urgent need to repair the Sand Island docks. The docks will have to be closed if they are not repaired. Discussion of Marine Board funds and insurance covering a portion of the repair costs. There was a suggestion to create a reserve account to cover future dock repairs. Ellis pointed out that the same thing would also apply to future needs for other projects; such as the heating and air conditioning system at City Hall. A subcommittee can be formed to look ahead at future projects.

Motion: Councilor Conn moved to amend the capital improvement budget as presented. Committee Member Funderburg seconded. All in favor; none opposed; motion carries.

Review – Additional Funding Requests

Finance Director Ellis reviewed the additional funding requests.

Motion: Councilor Locke moved to approve all the additional personal services funding requests as presented. Committee Member Eagle seconded.

Discussion. Council President Morten questioned the part-time Office Assistant highlighted in red. Ellis explained the duties of that position. He proposes that a day and a half be spent in Municipal Court and the other day and a half be spent in utilities. Morten also questioned the Assistant Planner positions listed twice. Ellis clarified that it is one position. Crystal has diverted to more Communications and less planning. If we don't have an Assistant Planner, Crystal will revert to doing those duties again. Ellis explained the Assistant Planner funding.

The Committee reviewed the additional funding requests using an excel spreadsheet to determine how reserves would be affected. Ellis recommends staying above 30%. Chair Lines looked at the blue line dropping in reserves. Is there anticipation of it improving in the next few years? Ellis said there is potential. It will never be what it was. City Administrator Walsh is concerned about the reserve balance dropping too low. We need to have healthy reserves as we move into the project on the waterfront.

Vote: Conn, Barlow and Eagle in favor. All others opposed. Motion failed.

Motion: Committee Member Funderburg moved to approve the following additional funding personal services requests: part-time to full-time Librarian, Assistant Planner, re-class Sergeant to Lieutenant, part-time Code Enforcement Officer. Council President Morten seconded.

Discussion. Mayor Peterson is more in favor of funding the part-time Office Assistant position rather than the part-time Code Enforcement position at this time. The need is greater in the office. He would also like to reclass the Accounting Assistant. There may be other ways to fund the Code Enforcement position.

Councilor Carlson would also like to consider keeping the part-time Library Assistant.

Vote: Morten, Funderburg, Locke, and Eagle in favor. All others opposed. Motion failed.

Council President Morten does not recall hearing about the part-time Office Assistant position prior to tonight. Ellis said it has been included since the beginning. Allocations were changed to reflect working half time in court and half time in utilities.

Mayor Peterson would like to see the dock repairs and portable radios approved on the capital items list. Discussion of the portable radios. Councilor Locke would like staff to investigate repairing the radios to extend their life.

Chief Moss expressed concern about hiring someone part-time for the Code Enforcement Officer position and not be able to keep them past next fiscal year.

Discussion of additional funding requests for the Library. Councilor Carlson, Councilor Conn and Jeffries expressed the need in the community for the Library to remain open. Adding both requests would allow the Library to open full days on Monday.

Chair Lines spoke of the capital request for the police vehicle. Will there be another request next year for an additional vehicle? Moss said it's not as detrimental to replace this year because of the shortage of staff. He does plan to ask again next year.

Councilor Locke pointed out that the police have taken hit after hit. Police staff is at a critical point. If we lose the Library, you lose 5-10% of house value. If you lose the Police Department, you lose 75% of your house value. He recommended the Council go on ride-alongs with police officers to get an idea of how they feel about their jobs. It was pointed out that none of the additional funding requests are for adding police officers.

Motion: Council President Morten moved to approve the following additional funding requests: part-time to full-time Librarian I, Assistant Planner, part-time Librarian Assistant, re-class Sergeant to Lieutenant, part-time Code Enforcement position and dock repairs. Committee Member Eagle seconded.

Discussion. There may be an internal solution for a Code Enforcement position.

Mayor Peterson would like to see the reserve fund flat line. He does not want to see it go down. At some point it will run out of money.

Vote: Funderburg in favor. All others opposed. Motion failed.

Motion: Mayor Peterson moved to approve the following additional funding requests: part-time to full-time Librarian I, Assistant Planner, re-class Sergeant to Lieutenant, and dock repairs. Committee member Birkle seconded.

Discussion.

Vote: Peterson, Morten, Locke, Carlson, Birkle, Funderburg, Lines, Eagle, Barlow in favor. Conn opposed.

Funderburg requested a model of what it would look like for the Building Official to do code enforcement and more information on the portable radios.

Ellis will modify the budget to reflect the additional funding requests. The Budget Committee will review the information and make additional changes at the next meeting, if needed.

Questions/Comments

None

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be May 19, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

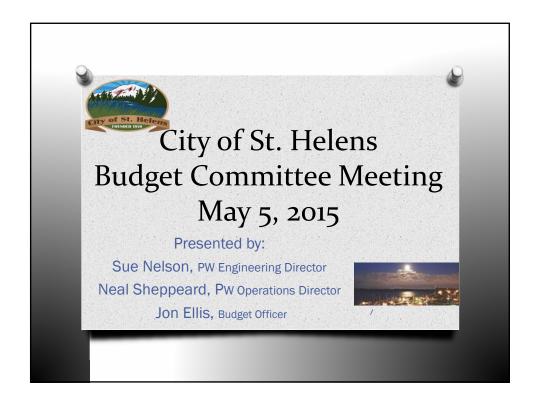
ATTEST:

Garrett Lines, Chair

Jon Ellis, Finance Director

Prepared by: Lisa Scholl, Committee Secretary

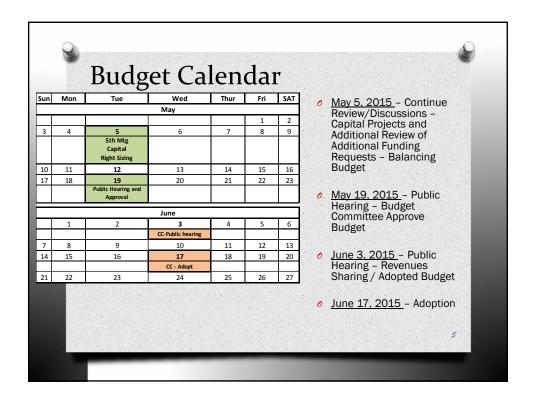
PowerPoint Presentation attached.

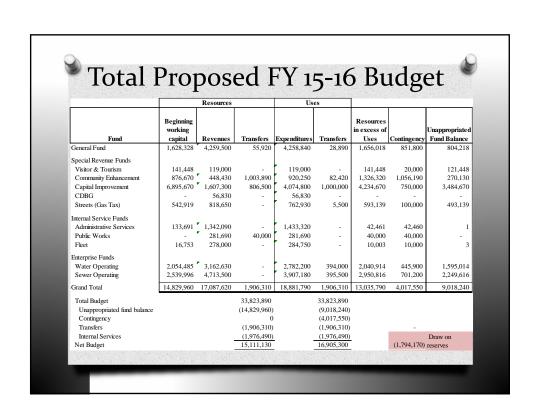


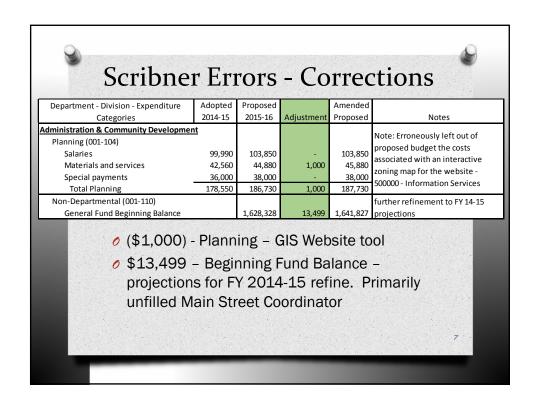


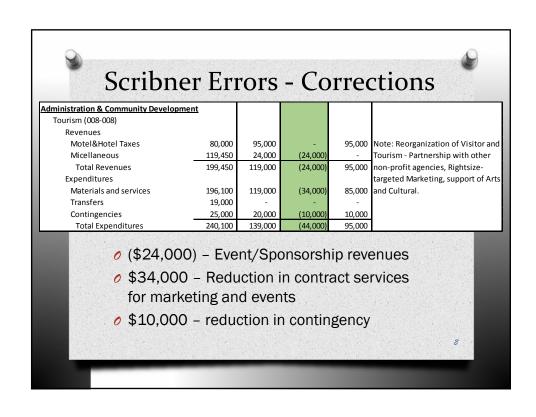


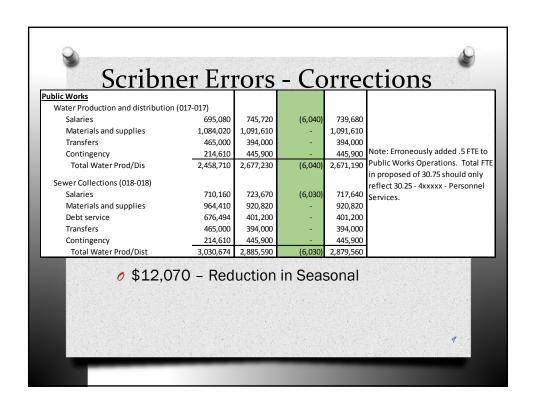


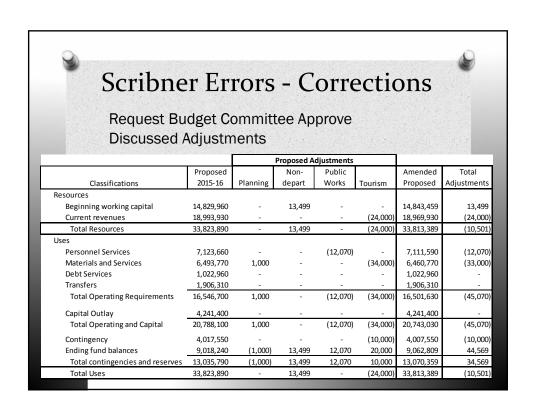


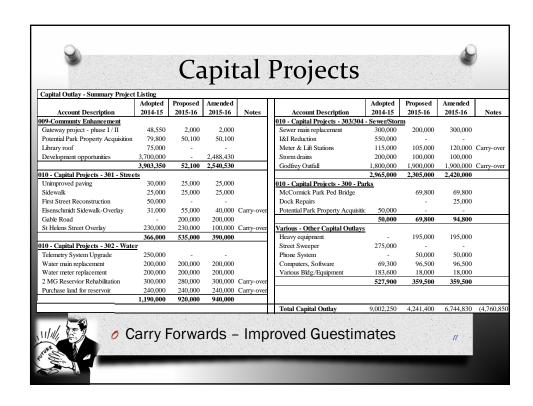


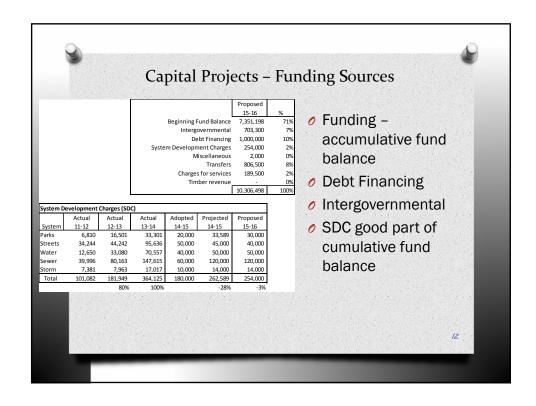


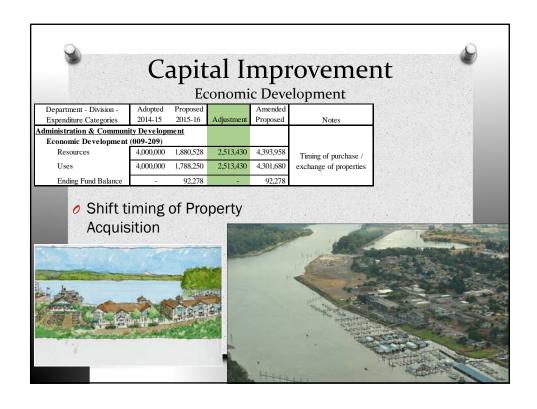


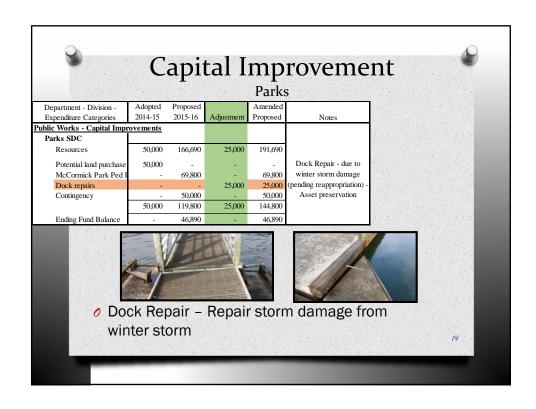


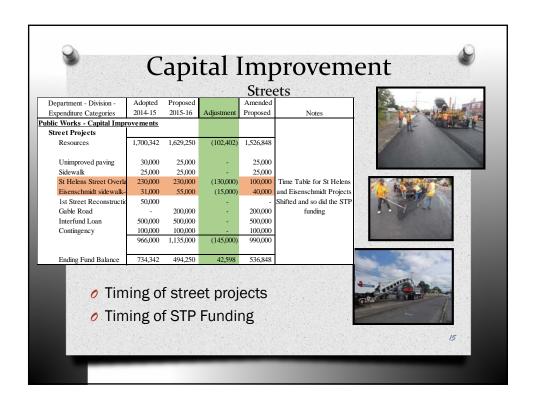


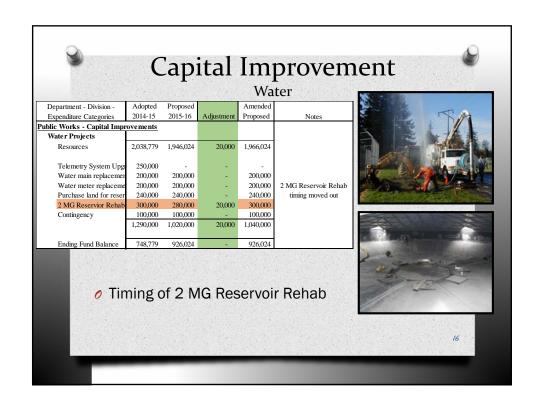


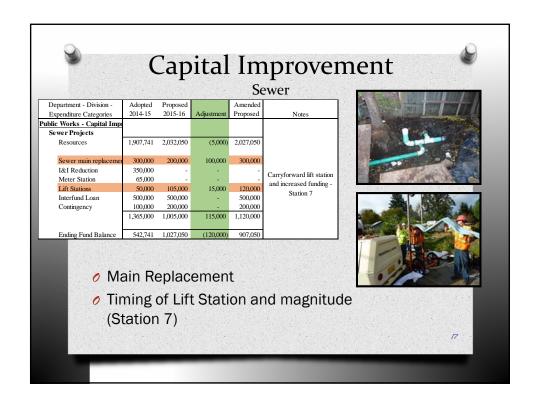




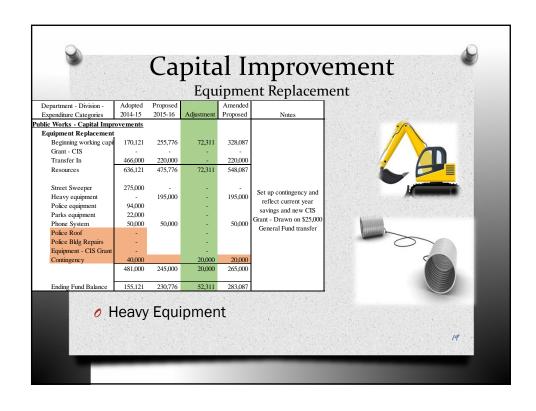


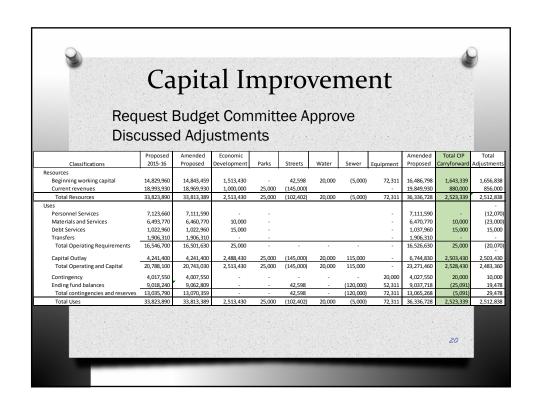












Additional Funding Requests Additional Funding Requests - FY 2015-16 Budget						
		Department /			General	Other
Request	FTE	Program	Notes	Total	Fund	Funds
Operations		<u>-</u>				
Part-time to full-time Librarian I	0.3	Library	Personnel	22,970	22,970	
Assistant Planner	1.0	CD - Planning	Personnel & MS	75,540	38,850	36,690
Assistant Planner		Direct labor Offset	Personnel		(23,660)	23,660
Part-time Librarian Assistant	0.5	Library	Personnel	17,020	17,020	-
Reclass Sergeant to Lieutenant	-	Police	Personnel	20,760	20,760	-
Part-time Office Assistant	0.6	Admin - Court	Personnel	50,220	25,110	25,110
Reclass to Accounting Assistant		Admin - Finance	Personnel	4,900	980	3,920
Part-time Code Enforcement	0.5	Police	Personnel	25,910	25,910	-
Total ongoing costs	2.6			217,320	127,940	89,380
<u>Capital</u>						
Docks' repairs	1.0	Parks	Capital	50,000	40,000	10,000
Police building repairs	-1.0	Police	Capital			<u></u>
Patrol Vehicle	1.0	Police	Capital	36,000	36,000	<u>-</u>
Portable radios	1.0	Police	Capital	30,000	30,000	
Video surveillance System	-1.0	Police	Capital			<u></u>
Body worn cameras	1.0	Police	Capital	14,500	14,500	-
Total one-time costs	6.0			130,500	120,500	10,000
Fotal additional funding requests			_	347,820	248,440	99,380

