# City of St. Helens

# **Budget Committee**

# **Budget Meeting Minutes**

April 21, 2015

**Council & Members Present:** 

Doug Morten, Council President

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

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

**Staff Present:** 

John Walsh, City Administrator

Jon Ellis, Finance Director

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

Margaret Jeffries, Library Director Nathan Jones, Youth Librarian Lisa Scholl, Committee Secretary

**Members Absent:** 

Randy Peterson, Mayor

Michael Funderburg, Committee Member

Others:

High school students

Mary Woiccak

Patty Coffer

Chair Lines called the meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **Visitors Comment**

None

## **Approval of Minutes**

Committee Member Eagle moved to approve the April 7, 2015 meeting minutes. Councilor Conn seconded.

Question. Chair Lines requested clarification. Would the cost of the server really be \$6000/year to back-up the body worn cameras? Finance Director Ellis confirmed that is correct.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carries.

## **Overview of Budget**

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

## **Review – Library Department**

Library Director Margaret Jeffries reviewed the Library Department duties and budget. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Library turns 100 years old in May! The Reference Librarian, Columbia County Museum Association, and the City's Communications Officer have developed a series of articles that will appear in the Chronicle during the month of May. A birthday party will be held on May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Library.

The Library is not defined by its walls.

- Outreach is very important. The Youth Librarian is a prime example.
- Digital Resources.
  - o Downloadable eBooks.
  - o Downloadable music.
  - o Homework assistance.
  - o Historical newspapers online.
- Cultural passes.
  - o Chinese Garden
  - o Japanese Garden
  - o Pittock Mansion
  - Oregon Historical Society
  - o Portland Art Museum

The Library is not limited to its formats.

- The Library is active and is not a "shushing" Library.
- There is a constant migration of words and music to new formats.

Jeffries reviewed Library programs.

- Summer Reading programs draw about 600 youth and 75-100 adults.
- Youth Librarian creates STEM programs.
- Babysitting classes.
- Programs for adults. Three years ago there were no programs for adults.
- Teen gaming night.
- And many more.

The Library has come a long way since beginning as a shelf of books.

Jeffries talked about the reduction in staff and hours. Programs will most likely be cut if hours are further reduced.

Committee Member Barlow asked how many Library cards are issued annually. Jeffries estimates there are 2,000-3,000 card holders. However, measuring card holders is not accurate. Many people come only to use the computers, wi-fi, summer reading program, etc. Councilor Carlson expressed her appreciation of the Library. Her son could not wait to check out a newly released book. Councilor Conn said the staff has brought the Library to where it is now. Committee Member Eagle added that libraries attract people and encourage businesses.

#### Break

Jeffries reviewed the additional funding requests.

- Full-time Librarian I for Youth Services. Enables the Library's existing children's and teen programs to continue.
- Third half-time Library Assistant. Restores lost operating hours which enables increased access to the Library.

### **Review - Arts & Cultural Commission**

The Arts & Cultural Commission is looking for ways to create a steady funding source. Jeffries talked about their desire to have the City assist in applying for grants. They have worked hard to fundraise and need a break.

Council President Morten talked about the possibility of an Urban Renewal District. That could include a certain amount of funding for art projects. The riverfront development will be an area of pride and culture.

Committee Member Eagle talked about funds in the 1930's that were dedicated to art. Discussion of alternative funding sources.

### Motion

Councilor Conn moved to research alternative funding sources for the Arts & Cultural Commission, such as allocating a percentage of transient room fees to arts. Councilor Carlson seconded. All in favor; none opposed; motion carries.

City Administrator Walsh will bring back tourism fund information to review at the next meeting.

# **Questions/Comments**

None

# **Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting will be April 28, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Garrett Lines, Chair

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Jon Ellis, Finance Director

Prepared by: Lisa Scholl, Committee Secretary

PowerPoint Presentation attached.































































