



MINUTES

BUDGET SESSION Meeting

6:00 PM - Thursday, May 16, 2019
Council Chambers

The BUDGET SESSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Council Member Jennifer Symanns, Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, Council Member Nicole Brown, Mayor Beth Bashert, and Council Member Anthony Morgan

ABSENT: Mayor Pro-Tem Lois Richardson

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II INVOCATION

Mayor Bashert asked all to stand for a moment of silence.

III PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

a) I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IV AGENDA APPROVAL

a) Mayor Bashert asked for a motion to approve the agenda

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Steven Wilcoxon, to approve the agenda

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Steven Wilcoxon
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, and Beth Bashert
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson and Anthony Morgan

V PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

VI REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

None

VII PRESENTATIONS OF DEPARTMENT AMENDED BUDGETS

a) Tony DeGiusti, Police Chief

Chief Degiusti provided an overview of the Police Department's budget amendments.

Council Member Morgan asked how much have the Tasers been used. Chief DeGiusti responded there have been eighty-nine deployments since 2008. Mr. Morgan asked if each officer is issued a Taser. Chief DeGiusti responded in the affirmative. Mr. Morgan asked if the amount could be decreased since they are used rarely. Chief DeGiusti responded no, the Tasers are tied to a specific officer for accountability.

Council Member Morgan asked if there is any protection offered to witnesses that provide information. Chief DeGiusti responded no.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated there is \$260,000 budgeted for overtime, he asked how many officers that could fund. Chief DeGiusti explained there are many reasons for overtime, and more officers does not necessarily equate to fewer hours of overtime.

Mayor Bashert asked why only one hybrid vehicle is being purchased. Chief DeGiusti responded in order to test if the vehicle is adequate for services provided.

Mayor Bashert asked how long the current Tasers have been in use. Chief DeGiusti responded five years. Ms. Bashert asked what causes the Tasers to expire. Chief DeGiusti responded the batteries begin to die. Ms. Bashert asked if the batteries can be replaced. Chief DeGiusti responded no, they are one unit. Ms. Bashert stated they are designed in order to need replacing after five years.

Ken Hobbs, Fire Chief

Chief Hobbs provided an overview of the Fire Departments budget amendments.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated there is a discrepancy between what the budget reflects and the presentation stated in terms of funding from Public Act 289. Chief Hobbs replied he contacted the state for the updated number. Mayor Bashert stated the amount the city will receive is not guaranteed, and \$400,000 is what the city has received traditionally.

Council Member Morgan stated there is a large gap between the other post-employment benefits (OPEB) between administration and other employees.

Chief Hobbs responded the large majority of employees in the department are not in administration.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked if the increase in administration wages are a result of the proposed Fire Marshall salary and benefits. Chief Hobbs responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked how public utilities are spread among the departments. Mr. Basabica responded it is based on usage of the facility. Mr. Wilcoxon stated there is only \$2,000 budgeted for professional development. Chief Hobbs replied that is an ongoing problem for the department.

Council Member Morgan stated EMT Certification is \$1,500 annually, and asked how many firefighters that would certify. Chief Hobbs replied it is \$1,500 for each employee.

Council Member Symanns asked if the Fire Department responds to medical emergencies alone, or with another agency. Chief Hobbs responded the department responded with HVA.

John Barr, City Attorney

City Attorney Barr provided an overview of the Attorney's Office budget.

Council Member Morgan asked how long the annual \$220,000 be set, and if under budget would it carryover to the next Fiscal Year. Mr. Barr responded that goes back to former City Manager Ralph Lange, who wanted to combine litigation and general work. Mr. Morgan asked if there are any services that are outsourced by the Attorney's Office. Mr. Barr responded in the affirmative. Mr. Morgan asked if the City Attorney's budget is used to finance the outsourced services. Mr. Barr responded yes, to a degree.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked if the \$75,000 includes only ligation. Mr. Barr responded the \$75,000 covers only the legal cost, there are other fees associated with litigation.

Mayor Bashert asked if Jesse O'Jack performs much of the city's prosecution. Mr. Barr responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked what the \$36,498 for personnel litigation is. Mr. Barr responded that is for labor council.

Mayor Bashert asked if Attorney's Office advises city boards and commissions. Mr. Barr responded in the affirmative. Ms. Bashert asked if the retainer includes phone conversations and attorney opinion. Mr. Barr responded in the affirmative.

Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk

City Clerk Hellenga provided an overview of the Clerk Department budget amendments.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated the city provides staffing for Primary Elections, and asked why the political parties are not funding those elections. Mr. Hellenga responded that is what the state law dictates.

Mayor Bashert stated the city should revisit that pay for election inspectors is in line with the living wage ordinance. Mr. Hellenga responded in order for inspector wages to be increased Council would need to pass a resolution.

Joe Meyers, Economic Development Director (Building, Community Economic Development)

Economic Development Director Meyers provided an overview of the Building and Economic Development Departments.

Council Member Brown asked if it is possible to have Elize Jakobson present the new portion of her job to Council, and introduce her to the public. Mr. Meyers responded in the affirmative. Mayor Bashert suggested the city provides a presentation regarding the process for the See.Click.Fix.

Mayor Bashert stated the Master Plan has been worked on for some time, and asked the deadline by state law. Mr. Meyers responded it must be updated this calendar year. Ms. Bashert asked if the consultant is assisting. Mr. Meyers responded in the affirmative. Ms. Bashert asked if Council could be provided a mid-project presentation. Mr. Meyers responded in the affirmative.

Rheagan Basabica, Finance Director

Finance Director Basabica provided an overview of the Finance/Treasury budget amendments.

Mayor Bashert asked how many years it will take to remove some of the legacy costs under control. Mr. Basabica responded roughly ten years. Ms. Bashert asked if that will be when the Water Street debt is retired. Mr. Basabica responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated there is an increase in wages in the Treasury Division from \$42,000 to \$70,000, but there was not an increase in staffing. Mr. Basabica responded this will account for two employees. Mr. Wilcoxon asked if that is instead of one and a half full-time employees. Mr. Hellenga responded the previous Treasurer retired this past August, leaving only the Treasury/Clerk Generalist.

- 5 MINUTE BREAK

Christopher Jacobs, DDA and Community Development Director

Community Development/DDA Director Jacobs provided an overview of the DDA budget.

Rebecca Craigmile, Human Resources Director

HR Director Craigmile provided an overview of budget amendments for the Human Resources department.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated the part-time wages are higher than the full-time wages and asked why. Mr. Basabica responded this is a result of the services provided by Plante Moran. Mr. Wilcoxon asked what the \$51,000 under contractual services is. Mr. Basabica responded it was for the assessment centers and background checks. Ms. Craigmile added there was a lot of turnover, which results in a greater need for pre-hire testing.

Frances McMullan, City Manager

City Manager McMullan provided an overview of budget amendments for the City Manager's office.

Council Member Wilcoxon stated Council was told the City Manager car allowance would be removed, but it is still reflected in the budget. Mr. Basabica stated it will be removed.

Brad Holman, Interim Director of Public Services

Interim DPS Director Holman provided an overview of the Department of Public Services budget amendments.

Mayor Bashert asked if the Iron Mountain fees include the labor. Mr. Holman responded no.

Mayor Bashert stated more complex crosswalks are paid more attention to. She added there are now three dimensional crosswalks available. Mr. Holman responded there are a few designs, and most importantly they provide what is occurring in that area.

Mayor Bashert asked if there have been any returns from the regional recycling facility, or is it too early. Mr. Holman responded it is too early to tell.

Mayor Bashert stated there is a modular Fire Truck available, and she did not know it was an option for public works vehicles. Mr. Holman responded in the affirmative.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked about the Vactor Truck, and mentioned he thought that would be a vehicle used by YCUA. Mr. Holman responded it is a replacement in order to maintain the quality of the infrastructure. Mayor Bashert asked if there is potential to sell the older vehicle. Mr. Holman responded for parts only. Ms. Bashert asked that when the purchases are brought to Council ensure research has been put into alternative fuel vehicles.

Mayor Bashert stated she would like to see the city get all the vehicles, but also if there is one that could be postponed. She would also like to see if vehicles being replaced can be sold, even if only for parts. Mr. Holman stated there is potential to lease vehicles. Ms. Bashert replied that can be tricky.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked about the DPS administrative salary budget increase. Mr. Basabica stated in the past salaries were paid from Account 4410, but now the amount is distributed to different funds/departments under DPS.

Council Member Wilcoxon asked if account 4480-920 for public utilities is down from the actual budgeted. Mr. Basabica explained the distribution allocation, and will provide Council with additional information. Mayor Bashert asked if this could assist in balancing the budget. Mr. Basabica responded we would need to do additional research.

VIII PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)

None

IX REMARKS FROM THE MAYOR

- Last year the city started with a surplus and ended up over budget. She asked for a summary of what was spent in order to build in a cushion to be prepared for potential unforeseen expenses. She would like flexibility in this budget, but this is a great start.

X ADJOURNMENT

- a) Motion to adjourn the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Council Member Nicole Brown moved, seconded by Council Member Jennifer Symanns, to adjourn the meeting

RESULT:	CARRIED.
MOVER:	Council Member Nicole Brown
SECONDER:	Council Member Jennifer Symanns
AYES:	Jennifer Symanns, Steven Wilcoxon, Nicole Brown, Beth Bashert, and Anthony Morgan
ABSENT:	Lois Richardson