

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSESSION OF THE
CITY COUNCIL, HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2011 AT THE
BRIGHTON CITY HALL, 200 N 1ST STREET, BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN.**

Mayor Bandkau called the Budget Worksession to order at 6:31 p.m. Present were Mayor Bandkau, Mayor Pro-Tem Bohn, Councilmembers, Schillinger, Cooper, Pipoly, Roblee and Muzzin. Also in attendance were Attorney Paul Burns, Staff Members: Dana Foster, Tom Wightman, Matt Schindewolf, Matt Modrack, Diana Lowe, Amy Cyphert, Kelly LaLonde and Jennifer Piasecki and an audience of 6.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Bandkau gave a Call to the Public at 6:32 p.m. Hearing no comment, the Call to the Public was closed.

DISCUSSION

City Manager, Dana Foster handed out a memo to Council dated February 24, 2011, from the Administrative Non-Union Pay & Benefits Staff Committee. He highlighted past cost- reduction changes, which the Administrative Non-Union Employees were first to incur or participate and new cost-savings recommendations. He discussed the updated General Fund Summary Six Year Financial Forecast spreadsheet. He discussed raising the Refuse User Fee to the maximum, changing the minimum Target Fund Balance from 15% to 10%, extending the furlough program, Union contracts coming due at different times and negotiate for employee MERS contribution.

Human Resource Director, Jennifer Piasecki stated per the Michigan Constitution, the City of Brighton cannot diminish or impair any pension plan. For underfunded divisions that are closed to new hires and are not linked to an open division, the computed employer dollar contribution would increase 4%-8% annually, until full funding is reached. The required employer contribution for such a closed division typically reaches its highest level about 11-12 years after the division becomes closed.

Council discussed the following:

- Services we must deliver because of statute or Charter.
- Providing the highest level of service to all taxpayers.
- Be fair and honest to City employees.
- There is a strong moral imperative that we make sure the City staff that provide safety have the equipment that helps prevent the risk of injury.
- Old Village cemetery requires work and we need to find a way to bring it up to the level it is supposed to be.
- Keep up on road repair work and annual road maintenance; Water and Sewer maintenance; and buildings and grounds.
- Additional furlough day
- Not increase the OPEB.
- Revisit SLECRA contribution.
- DDA picking up some of the costs in the DDA district.
- Possibly pick up some operating costs through the DDA.

- Implement the Civic Event fee schedule from the Maximums Study.
- Where are we to go with our unions?
- Scale back on some of our services.
- Look at Revenue generation and opportunities
- Shared services with the four municipalities that are interested and look at shared Water & Sewer services
- One meeting per month is the right thing to do
- Go after grants for Information Technology.
- Automate services.
- H.S.A. account and funding.
- Volunteers to help clean up the cemetery.
- Tax increase in a future forecast.
- Eliminate leaf removal.
- Green Oak has significant problems with their softened water.
- Services that have to be cut.
- The taxpayers are the reason we are here
- Not cut essential services.
- Ask residents to bag their leaves.
- Ask employees where we could cut costs.
- Not to reduce the monthly Council meetings.
- Be careful which services are automated, as the aging population not being savvy with computers.
- Quarterly water bills.
- Have two meetings a month.
- Eliminate the least critical on the services matrix.

City Manager, Dana Foster stated going up to the Headlee lid would not produce enough revenue to combat the declines in property value. He discussed a report regarding sharing utilities and the City not having softened water service, but if we did we could bring it to the Regional Cooperation group. He stated in 2004 the City started seeing declining trends in utility revenues. He discussed Headlee tax override, more land transfer agreements through Act 425 and tax sharing agreements. He also stated Council needs to talk about utility rate options and IT planning at a future Worksession.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Bandkau gave a Call to the Public at 8:29 p.m. Hearing none, the Call to the Public was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Roblee, second by Muzzin to adjourn the Budget Worksession at 8:29 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Diana Lowe, City Clerk

Ricci Bandkau, Mayor