

City of Oakbrook Terrace

*City Hall
17W275 Butterfield Road
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
www.oakbrookterrace.net*



Special City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
6:00 PM

City Council Board Room

Oakbrook Terrace City Council

Mayor Paul Esposito

City Clerk Michael Shadley

Ward 1

Alderman Charlie Barbari

Alderman Joseph Beckwith

Ward 2

Alderman Frank Vlach

Alderman Dennis Greco

Ward 3

Alderman Bob Rada

Alderwoman Mary Fitzgerald

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

6:00 P.M.

City Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Esposito called the March 20, 2024, Special City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following City Council members in attendance:

Present: Barbari, Beckwith, Fitzgerald, Greco, Rada, Vlach, and Mayor Esposito.

Absent: None

Also in attendance were City Administrator J. Ritz, Assistant to the City Administrator A. Raffel, Interim Finance Director S. Griffin, Community Development Director M. Headley, Public Services Director C. Ward, Police Chief C. Calvello, Deputy Chief D. Clark, and Records Supervisor A. Lozano.

Mayor Esposito opened the budget discussion with a brief overview of the topics of discussion for the evening.

The City Council asked for clarification on questions from the Budget Meeting on March 13, 2024. Questions included detailed line items regarding Litigation and Prosecutions, Special Events, Library Card Program, Financial Software Program BS&A, Public Services Salt Storage Dome, total revenue loss due to possible removal of the 1% Grocery Tax, and additional staffing for Public Services.

Police Department

Police Chief Calvello stated the police department will have a 4.2% budget increase totaling approximately \$6 million. The increase is due primarily to higher wages and benefit costs for police officers. Alderman Greco voiced his concern about the limited resources available to the police officers and suggested hiring more staff. Alderman Rada raised the issue of the current overtime budget and proposed that adding an additional officer could decrease the overall overtime costs in the long run. Police Chief Calvello and Deputy Chief Clark felt that adding an extra officer would definitely be beneficial and would help with current staffing issues by reducing shift coverage overtime along with the mental stress and burnout with working so many hours.

Alderman Beckwith also mentioned that with one officer leaving and replacing him, he wanted to know if we would have any officers looking to retire within three (3) to five (5) years. Chief Calvello reassured the council that he had a great team but acknowledged that it would be difficult to ask for additional support after the loss of Red-Light Camera revenues. The City Council ultimately agreed to add an extra officer to the budget.

Capital Improvement Fund

During the meeting, Interim Finance Director Griffin explained the expenses included in the Capital Improvement Budget. These expenses included professional and technical costs, the police ETSB System, squad car dash cameras, flock cameras, migrating finance software from Springbrook to BS&A, and the replacement of servers and upgrades to the information technology system at the police department and city hall.

Public Service Director Ward requested that funds be set aside for a street sealing project to extend the life of the streets within Oakbrook Terrace, and asked for two (2) marked squad cars to be added to the police fleet.

Water

During the meeting, Interim Finance Director Griffin and Public Services Director Ward discussed various aspects of Oakbrook Terrace's water management. They talked about the salaries funded by the water fund, the purchase of water from the DuPage Water Commission, the selling of water, and the current water rates. Interim Finance Director Griffin and Public Services Director Ward estimated that water usage would increase by 7.6% more than FY24 due to more businesses opening, and with more employees coming back into the office. They also noted that the increases in water usage have come from commercial properties, and that revenue will increase this year due to the increased water usage.

Alderman Beckwith asked if they should consider a water rate increase, which Public Services Director Ward expressed that Oakbrook Terrace hasn't experienced a water rate increase since 2015 while the City of Chicago and the DuPage Water Commission have increased rates over the years. Interim Finance Director Griffin stated that the Water Fund is close to breaking even or operating at a loss, which is a concern and would warrant rate increases.

Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Fund 05-12

Public Service Director Ward discussed adding curbs and gutters to Nimitz Road, Marshall Road, and Elder Lane if adequate funding is available. Alderman Beckwith asked if this project is close to completion, and Director Ward advised that as long as city council keeps allowing yearly funding for about 3000 feet of curbs and gutters the project will be completed in five (5) years.

Interim Finance Director Griffin stated that most municipalities never get enough funds for projects like this, so they let the funds accumulate until there is enough funding to complete a major street repair or for more costly projects.

SSA Debt Service 04-12

Interim Finance Director Griffin stated that the 2006 special ad valorem tax bond will be paid off in 2026. The funds come directly from the property taxes of the applicable residents, and the goal is not to have any funds leftover.

Business District Fund 8-12 & 12-12

Interim Finance Director Griffin stated the purpose of this fund is to pay off the 2021 bond services, which will be paid off in 2031.

Budget Summary

Interim Finance Director Griffin stated that this process has been very collaborative, with staff helping and quickly turning things around. When discussing the budget with City Administrator Ritz, she noted that our budget drives our expenditures, and she pointed out the idea of adding a contingency line item in case of emergencies that may happen throughout the year within each department's budget.

City Administrator Ritz thanked the Mayor, City Council, and all the department heads for the great job and hard work they did in compiling a fiscally responsible budget for FY2024-2025.

Mayor Esposito thanked the department heads and Interim Finance Director Griffin for their hard work during this budget process. He stated that Interim Finance Director Griffin did a great job to prepare this budget within a limited time frame.

Alderwoman Fitzgerald gave kudos to all and appreciated the open, honest exchange based on research and being well-versed. She expressed her gratitude and felt both meetings flowed well.

Alderman Greco thanked Interim Finance Director Griffin and the staff for a well-done job. He asked if the City Council could receive the proposed budget sooner since there is much information to absorb. Alderman Greco stated he was proud of the topics discussed and felt the dialogue was fantastic.

Alderman Beckwith echoed the same sentiments as his other council members. He also stated it was nice to see the department heads know their departments and bring forth ideas. Alderman Beckwith stated this was his fifth budget meeting and felt it was one of the best. He thanked Interim Finance Director Griffin for quickly turning the budget around with the help of experienced department heads who brought fresh ideas and knowledge that may have been lacking in past meetings.

Alderman Rada stated that this is his sixth budget meeting, and he says that this budget meeting has given him the most precise idea of the budget. He thanked Interim Finance Director Griffin for the hard work and for answering all the questions presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Mayor Esposito adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Raffel, Recording Secretary

Attested:

Michael Shadley
City Clerk

Next Regular City Council meeting is March 26, 2024

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