Meeting called by: Judy Doesschate, Chair  Date: 10-11-18  Time: 5:30PM

Minutes

Agenda Item: 2019 Proposed Budget – Committee Workshop

Chair convened the meeting stating members present at 5:39PM.

Points of Discussion:

- Committee asked why there are no revenue for power poles registration
- Committee will check if the Albany Plan – county aid in the Albany County budget

Streetlight & LED Conversion

- Council Member Doesschate and O’Brien have concerns with borrowing 3.3 million a year for 10 yrs.
- Administration looking to bond for it
- 2.91% finance through the New York Power Authority – at a variable rate
- New York Authority acts as administrator oversight for the purchase of streetlight for the City
- Purchase will not trigger our debt policy, will add 3.3 million to the current schedule will exceed our debt policy regarding maximum debt service payments
- We need to keep our bonding under 10-14 Million to not exceed our debt policy limits

$90 Waste Collection fee

- Common Member Farrell said the trash fee was not governed by those tax rules
- Common Member Doesschate states that we have not exceeded the tax caps
- When government enact fees cannot charge more than the actual cost of delivering those services
- In Guilderland, they are paying $40/month for trash pick up
- The Mayor budget states that legislation that ensures the trash fee will go cover the cost of recyclable and disposable
- Common Member Doesschate asking administration for its legislation – not clear if she needs to introduce hers
- The department heads are used to coming in for the proposed budget review
- Low income Senior Citizens and Enhance Star eligible property owners are exempt from the trash fee
- Common Member Doesschate not in favor of reducing revenue lines unless it is in the best interest of the City and we find savings elsewhere
- We wait to discuss these revenue lines with departments

Mayor’s Office
• Community Outreach Coordinator and Constituent Service Assistant (p/t) has more than 1% salary increase

Treasurer’s Office
• Treasurer Office eliminated one position
• Director of Parking Violations reduction (retire and coming back Part-Time)
• Adjudication clerk coming back Part-Time due to having a baby

Audit
• OAC recommends that the City administration dedicate an accountant to manage all of the City’s utility vendors

Department of Administrative Services
• Lead director ($69,000) moved to Deputy at $80,000

Purchasing
• Standard 1% raises for Department

Information Technology
• Standard 1% raise for Department
• Add Business Analyst

Health Insurance
• 2% increase

Special Events
• 1% raise
• Significant revenue drop offs from tulip festive and Alive at Five
• We do not want to reduce revenue, just do a better job instead of reducing revenue
• Our goal should be that these types of events are self-supporting or that they bring in revenue

Albany Police Department
• Adding Police Officer Recruit, fiscal analyst and vehicle Maintenance Manager
• Remove one Data Entry staff
• Overtime line is being reduced by $100,000

Planning
• One vacant position
• Standard 1% increase in salaries

Albany Community Development Agency (ACDA)
• Federally funded and no impact on City budget
• Add Part-Time Attorney and Account Clerk

Department of Building and Regulatory Compliance
• Contingency Account – unexpected amount

Water Department
• Separate Authority so we do not review

Vacancy Saving
• Now consolidated and Less than last year

Work Compensation
• Reallocated to individual departments

Common Member Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn, which was duly made, seconded by the Chairperson, and passed.