

**Greensburg City Council  
July 10, 2014  
2015 Budget Workshop  
City Hall**

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor Robert Dixon called the special meeting of the Greensburg City Council to order at 6:20 p.m., after the adjournment of the regular Council meeting continued to this evening.

**B. Roll Call**

Council present: Matt Christenson, Mark Trummel, Sandra Jungemann, Haley Kern, and Rick Schaffer.

**C. 2015 Budget Workshop**

City Administrator Ed Truelove discussed the 2015 budget, as presented in a Council handout. "Other Funds" (no tax levy) were the first funds presented. Truelove voiced particular concern over the trend and cash balance of the Special Highway Fund, questioning the available of adequate funds for future street repairs. Dollars from this fund have previously been used to supplement the street fund, mostly for repaving. This fund will require close management. The infrastructure Fund receives revenue through the ½ cent sales tax. A portion of these funds will be utilized in the upcoming pool project, along with insurance proceeds. The Incubator Fund is trending toward an unhealthy fund. City taxes on the property have increased and rent of the office and retail spaces has remained unchanged. Facing necessary repairs to the Incubator building, Truelove recommended a planning retreat for Council in September to discuss this fund and other future planning for the City. The City has been receiving taxes from the state from liquor by the drink sales. A new fund, Parks and Recreation/Alcohol, was created to track the use of those funds. The Electric Utility Fund continues to be healthy. The City will pay off their electric bond in 2016. \$100,000 will go back into the fund following payoff. The City's current electric rate is lower than others in the area, but is adequate for maintaining a healthy fund at this time. Some of the dollars available in the fund the last two years have been transferred to the General Fund, to assist in keeping the mil levy down. Fuel adjustments have been added to utility bills the last 2-3 months. \$6,000 - \$7,000 in additional costs to the City were not previously being passed down to the customers. The water fund is healthy, and there is currently no need for an increase in fees. The sewage fund is not doing as well as hoped, and it may be a candidate for further rate inspection in the future. The Sanitation Fund is trending upward; however, the County is considering a landfill tipping fee increase. If the increase passes the County Commission, the City will need to increase rates to accommodate the additional expense.

When discussing the General Fund, Truelove noted that the City is in need of tenants at the Business Park and an increase in population to avoid future tax increases. Truelove explained that the proposed increase in mil levy for 2015 is less than 1.5% and does not require the publication of a tax increase. The requested mil levy is nearly equal to that in 2013, because the levy was dropped for 2014. The General Fund is currently capable of funding the needs of the city, but leaves no room for capital outlay requests while maintaining a fairly flat mil levy rate. Truelove also reminded Council that the Neighborhood Revitalization Program is still in effect and ad Valorem tax is down. Also mentioned was the fact that this budget, for the first time, reflects true costs for operation of the water treatment plant.

Schaffer stepped out of the meeting at 7:23 p.m. and returned at 7:27 p.m.

Discussion amongst the Council continued and included: the possibility of a planned transfer to the General Fund from the Electrical Fund and then to the water fund, the annual \$15,000 grant to local

non-profits, and the fact that the City's software provider for budget, utilities, payroll, court, etc. will no longer support City's after December 2015. Staff will be researching new software suites.

Staff recommended Council keep the mil levy stable and approve the budget draft as presented or increase the mil levy to allow for capital outlay expenditures. Staff also recommended that the required Public Hearing for the budget be held August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with the budget as drafted.

**D. Adjournment**

Dixson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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Robert A. Dixon, Mayor

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Christy Pyatt, City Clerk

APPROVED