

**CITY OF MONROE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009**

Work Session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members McGhee, Molenda, Conner, Beneteau, Clark (arrived 7:05), Paisley and Mayor Worrell.

Also Present: City Manger, George Brown
Director of Finance, Ed Sell
Chief of Police, John Michrina
Fire Chief, Joe Mominee
Sheri Hudson
Paula Smith
Toby Worrell
Jeanne Micka
Clem Hess

George Brown, City Manager opened the session by explaining that this work session would be one of three to look at a comprehensive draft budget and that we are in the third year of what we used to call rightsizing but now we are getting down to austerity. He explained that in 2006 Ed Sell, Finance Director, presented a two year budget projection to a fairly new mayor and council that showed that the city was facing a structural deficit and that if measures weren't taken soon to rightsize and tackle some other long term issues, the city would find itself unable to balance its budgets fairly soon in the future. He gave a brief history about the housing market's downward turn and economic decline across the country and as a result of these circumstances the budget being presented is an austerity budget. He continued that after general fund departmental requests were received, Ed Sell, Finance Director, built the initial budget from them and determined the city is 1.2 – 1.3 million dollars short between available revenues and proposed expenditures. Since that time Ed Sell has worked many hours, had dialog with the department heads and he has closed the gap which is reflected in this first draft budget being presented this evening. He continued by suggesting that as council looks at making changes to the budget they should also look at making the clerks position into an appointed position instead of an elected position and taking it to the voters for consideration. He stated that the draft does not anticipate federal funding under the Police COPS Program or alteration to the Fire Department collective bargaining agreement because they are not in place currently. He summarized that in the 2005-2006 budget there were 250 full time city employees, and in the 2008-2009 budget there were 205 full time employees, but the budget for 2009-2010 anticipates funding 175 full time employees. He finalized that there are now more retirees than there are full time employees.

Ed Sell, Finance Director gave a power point presentation on the city's budget process for the fiscal year 2009-2010 and provided a binder for council with a schedule for the budget work sessions, department presentation times, a line item budget for the general fund, a budgeted full time position schedule listed by department, a budget calendar currently in place and stated that the budget must be approved by April 30, 2009. He explained that the first part of the budget process for adopting next years budget is to look at where we are with the current year's budget and where we can expect to end up with reserves.

After his presentation he stated that the next steps in the process are to have the departments present their budget and that a list of the departments responsible for a specific budget is provided with the binder handed out this evening.

Ed Sell, Finance Director presented Mayor/Council/Manager budget, and Finance/IT/Non-Dept. budget.

Break 8:24 p.m. - 8:32 p.m.

Charles Evans, City Clerk-Treasurer presented Clerk/Treasurer budget.

Thomas Ready, City Attorney presented the Attorney budget.

It was moved by Councilman Paisley and seconded by Councilwoman Conner that the meeting adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion passed.

Charles D. Evans
City Clerk, Clerk's Office

Mark G. Worrell
Mayor