

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, March 26, 2014, for the purpose of reviewing the Overview, Revenues and General Government Sections of the Proposed FY 2015 Budget.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:32 p.m. The meeting was held in Room 201 of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Konrad E. Herling was unable to attend due to illness.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Williams, City Treasurer, Dale Worley, Information Technology Director,

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Molly Lester, Bill Orleans and Thomas X. White, News Review

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the General Fund Summary page with Council. Mr. Williams discussed FY 2015 revenue highlights. Mayor Jordan asked if the personal property numbers were based on the economy. Mr. Williams stated he was reporting the trend. There was discussion of red light camera revenue. Ms. Davis requested information on reduced accident data and suggested there may be a correlation.

Under General Fund Revenues, Ms. Mach asked if parking ticket revenue covered costs. Mr. McLaughlin responded it was recovering the City's costs. Ms. Davis asked about the homeowner tax credit and how it was promoted. Mr. McLaughlin responded that announcements are included in the City's News Review advertisement and listed on the City's website and in the GAIL Guide.

Under General Fund Expenditures, Mr. Williams noted that 20% was budgeted for a health insurance premium increase and that staff was still negotiating with Carefirst.

Council reviewed the General Government section of the Budget. Mayor Jordan suggested a focus group to evaluate the new City website.

Mr. Putens asked questions about the Organizational Assessment. Mr. Worley stated he could use two more staff. Mr. Williams responded he only had four staff and they were busy keeping up with current workload. There was discussion of the unused human resources software module. Mr. Williams responded it was not compatible with existing financial management software system and that the budget included an objective to evaluate new financial management software including human resources software.

Under Information Technology (IT), Mr. Worley discussed the value of internal "champions" in each Department to become experts in that Department's software systems. Mayor Jordan stressed the investment in IT systems and the need to make better use of them. Ms. Pope believed the City needed to have people trained in these systems. Ms. Mach requested an IT person on the wish list. Ms. Davis noted that as newer, younger employees came on board they would be better at IT.

Mr. Worley briefly described the cable television negotiations with Comcast. He believed the Time/Warner acquisition was helping move negotiations forward.

Under Community Promotion, Mayor Jordan asked about increasing cable television franchise fees. Mr. McLaughlin responded they were increasing slightly.

Under Public Information there was discussion of potentially using electronic agenda formats for Council meetings. Mr. McLaughlin noted the objective was to explore this idea.

The meeting ended at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David Moran
Assistant City Manager*