

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO
CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
June 18, 2018

The city council met in a worksession on Monday, June 18, 2018 in the conference room at city hall. Council President Garbe called the meeting to order at 5:47 P.M. The worksession had been set by the council on May 21st.

Council members present: Marvin Garbe, Bryce Curtiss, Todd Hay, Nathan Schmidt and Sandra Hodge. Absent: None. Mayor Debra Lee Fader present.

Also present were: City Manager Steven C. Jones, Assistant City Manager Angela Steinbach, Finance Director Jan Flaherty, Public Works Director Aaron Blom, Police Chief Adam Christopher and City Clerk Glennis Lauritsen.

OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL

Council discussed the concept of offering free swimming at the outdoor pool in 2019. City Manager Jones stated that if the council is interested, staff would work now to find sponsors, and it could be tried as a one-year test. He noted that youth/families would benefit, and it would also bring people to town.

It was the consensus of the council that staff continue to work on this idea, with additional discussions to be held during the budget worksession(s).

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

In 2014, a Historic Building Assessment was conducted by Hay/Dobbs, which included three phases: Phase I - Asset Preservation; Phase II - Accessibility; and, Phase III - Restoration at a complete project cost of \$904,388. No major improvements have been made since that time, and the building is deteriorating. The question posed to council was whether the city should continue to find avenues to rebuild the facility, or whether the building should be sold or even demolished. Inasmuch as the library is on the Historic Register, there may be restrictions related to a sale/demolition, and staff would need to research that further. Local zoning regulations would also restrict the building's future use.

It was the consensus of the council that staff continue to research the issue.

POTENTIAL IT POSITION

In 2017, the city hired Morecom to conduct an IT Audit and, subsequently, hired them to help with the city's technology needs. The city's IT needs have become critical, and the cost of using outside contractors is escalating. City Manger Jones explained that in 2018, the city is on pace to spend more in IT upgrades than the cost of a new employee. Therefore, staff has been looking at the possibility of creating a new IT position.

It was the consensus of the council to include this matter with the 2019 Budget discussions.

POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT

Police Chief Adam Christopher discussed his request to hire another full-time police officer in September 2019. Currently, the department is comprised of 10 full-time officers and 8 part-time officers. The full-time number includes one officer that has been out on work. comp. for 18 months. Christopher stated that he would like to move to 11 full-time officers and phase out the part-time staff. He noted that the department's work load will increase with the addition to the community of the proposed special needs school facility and the Veterans Home.

It was the consensus of the council to include this matter with the 2019 Budget discussions.

LELS/AFSCME CONTRACTS

Council was informed that both union contracts will expire at the end of 2018. City Manager Jones shared a couple of strategy issues and indicated that he had already spoken with the LELS representative.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

The council reviewed draft numbers provided by Ehlers & Associates based on a \$3.3 Million public works building project and a Projected Debt Levy spreadsheet provided by Finance Director Jan Flaherty for years 2017-2039. The spreadsheet noted no bonded street projects in 2019 and 2020; however, state aid and/or cash projects could still be undertaken. Staff noted that the city's subcommittee will meet after the regular council meeting tonight to further discuss the three architectural proposals received and to select facilities to tour.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Glennis A. Lauritsen, Secretary

Approved by council July 2, 2018:

Marvin E. Garbe, President