

CITY OF CASSELTON
Tuesday, August 23, 2016
SPECIAL MEETING 7:00 P.M.
Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Lee Anderson, Councilmen Joan Carvell, Mike Eberhardt, Charlie Francis, Char Gust and Kent Buss.
Also present: Tim McLean, Morgan Forness, Jack Haines, Sheila Krueger, Kristen Hackmann, City Auditor Sheila Klevgard, Public Works Director Kevin Mayer.

Preliminary Budget

The county auditor said the city can't increase the library levy so the line item expense of \$11,464 was put back in the General Fund to fund them. The fire department requested an increase of \$4,000 to cover the costs of the new fire truck; the last increase was ten years ago. Fargo landfill is increasing their tipping fees so revenues were increased to more than cover the expense. The sanitation department has net revenues which are to be used to replace equipment including garbage trucks, loaders and the tires which cost \$3,000 each. It was suggested that the city needs to get more intentional with an equipment replacement schedule. Councilman Buss made a motion, seconded by Councilman Francis to increase sanitation rates fifty cents per tote and \$4.00 per yard on dumpsters effective January 1, 2017. All voted aye on roll call vote except Councilman Gust; **motion passed**. The high sewer chemical costs in 2015 were due an over abundance of weeds in the lagoons. The budgeted water charges include a fifty-five cent increase to cover the increase from Cass Rural Water plus extra to start saving for the new water tower so as not to have such a large increase later. Gust questioned why utility project costs are charged to the residents through the water bill rather than using a special assessment. The past philosophy has been that all users benefit and if paid by specials, only the current users would pay for the improvements rather than also charging new users. Councilman Carvell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Gust to increase water rates to \$20.00 on the base rate and to \$8.50 per thousand gallons and budget a line item expense for a transfer out for the new water tower of \$60,000. All voted aye on roll call vote; **motion passed**. Levy rates were set to stay the same for cemetery and library. Councilman Eberhardt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Buss to set the General Levy at 45.04 mills. All voted aye on roll call vote; **motion passed**. The school is looking for public/private funding to build a community center addition to the school. Although council verbally supports the concept, Carvell would like to support the school in other ways than giving the school money because she doesn't see where the funds could be taken from the city's budget. There was also concern whether the taxpayers would want to the city to increase the mills in order to contribute. Haines, the school board president, suggested meeting with people from other cities who have established collaboration between their school and city. A meeting date will be scheduled. The cemetery has been borrowing money from the perpetual fund for the last few years to cover operating costs. It was suggested to give them enough at the end of the year to prevent them from having to take more from perpetual and potentially help them pay it back. Councilman Francis made a motion, seconded by Councilman Buss to increase Miscellaneous Expense to \$10,000. All voted aye on roll call vote; **motion passed**. Councilman Eberhardt made a motion, seconded by Councilman Francis to approve the preliminary budget as adjusted. All voted aye on voice vote; **motion passed**.

Priority List for City Planning

City council concerns are to be brought to the joint boards meeting set for tomorrow. Water and garbage are a concern because the city is at the mercy of other entities for setting rates. Councilman Eberhardt would like the option for a secondary water source. Other ideas included school and community center, road plans including an overpass for the railroad and extending infrastructure by Casselton Vet Clinic.

Councilman Carvell made a motion to adjourn at 9:28 pm.

Next regular meeting September 6, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila K Klevgard
City Auditor