



## City of Irrigon Budget Committee May 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Margaret Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. Appointment of Chairperson

Margaret Anderson nominated Daren Strong to be chairperson. Michelle Patton seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, vote was taken, and the motion passed.

### 3. Roll Call

Budget committee members present: Daren Strong, Margaret Anderson, Michelle Patton, Roberta Hewitt, Marlina Avila Serratos and Melvin Lambert. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Finance Officer Amanda Ferguson and City Manager Aaron Palmquist

In attendance: Gary David, Kathy Calvert, Gleny McCutchen, John Bass, Barb Huwe, and Rachelle Fleming.

### 4. Approval of May 6, 2021, Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Michelle Patton moved to approve the May 6, 2021, budget committee meeting minutes. Roberta Hewitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### 5. 2022-2023 Budget Message

City Manager Aaron Palmquist presented the 2023 Budget message. The 2023 budget is made up of twelve self-balancing funds, with a total appropriation of \$14,612,804 and \$812,760 reserved for future expenditures. This is an increase of \$1,173,774 in appropriations from the current years. This increase is from anticipated grants for project improvements.

The Morrow County Assessor is reflecting an increase in the city's assessed property values of approximately 11.5% from the current year. The city's permanent tax rate is 3.6782 per one thousand of assessed value and the general bond levies are estimated at \$87,409 for water debt and \$120,708 for sewer debt.

### 6. Public comment

Gary David asked to be added to the next city council meeting's agenda to discuss policies. He had previously indicated to the mayor he was a critic of the city.

He then read comments from other professionals regarding starting a new police department such as: encourage that the city does due diligence; don't rush; several work sessions for best representation by residents and businesses; and sometimes when you think you see the light at the end of the tunnel, it ends up being the train.

He recommended the Guidelines for Starting and Operating a New Police Department from the U.S. Department of Justice and having a 5-year plan for code enforcement

He spoke of a contract he had tried to get for a city he had worked for a few years ago. He had taken citizens up to Seattle to discuss small city contracts with the King County Sheriff's Office. He conducted meetings regarding the ifs and buts, pros and cons, but that the city's city council did not participate in those meetings. It took him six (6) months to complete his report. The city had decided to go with its own police department. This cannot be done without council, city manager and citizens involvement. They have contracts in Washington County, and he wants city stakeholders to go to Washington county and listen to presentations. They have a combination of a police chief, deputy sheriff and an intergovernmental services agreement outlining all the costs and a mediation process. In rural areas like this, we need to be doing this kind of stuff together. He suggested communicating with county commissioners regarding a new sheriff and different ways to do law enforcement.

Gleny McCutchen informed that when she first moved here, she heard that Irrigon was considered the chop shop capital and that was a time that Irrigon had its own cop. Small town cops should not be doing code enforcement.

Barb Huwe spoke of the tourism meeting on May 4, 2022, and needing more volunteers and involvement. Media is needed in this town to communicate to community.

John Bass introduced himself as the husband of Reagan Bass and apologized for her absence. She had gotten held over a work.

He then asked where the water comes from, and the sewer go.

Aaron explained that the city has two (2) newer wells along the Columbia River that produces clean water. Prior to that the city wells had been contaminated with nitrates. Th sewer is pumped to the city's wastewater treatment plant, treated then filtered through the ground.

John Bass suggested doing something similar to what was done at the prison for street lights where grants through the department of corrections was used to put solar powered lights in the parking lot with the solar panel on top and battery base. It would avoid UEC fees, and the no ditches would need to be dug.

Closed public comment at 7:33

## 7. Public Hearing – State Revenue Sharing

Hearing opened at 7:36.

State Revenue Sharing Law, ORS 221.770, mandates a public hearing before the budget committee be held to discuss possible uses of the funds to receive state revenue sharing in 2022-2023.

A public hearing before the city council on the proposed uses of the funds in relation to the entire budget will be required after the public hearing before the budget committee.

Then a resolution approving participation in the program and requesting state revenue sharing money must be passed by city council.

Gleny McCutchen suggested safety equipment for the public works.

Public hearing closed 7:39.

## 8. Review 2022-2023 Budget Document

The budget committee members had reviewed the budget document prior to the meeting. The consensus was to go through the document page by page asking for clarification, discussion and changes along the way.

On page 10, regarding Public Safety and Code Enforcement Requirements. Amanda Ferguson described that a potential expenditure had been discovered after the proposed budget had been created, a line needed to be added for Lexipol Legal services and updates in the Materials and Services appropriation in the amount of \$27,000 increasing that appropriation to \$67,500 and reducing the operating contingency in the General Fund to \$161,800.

Also, in regard to the Public Safety and Code Enforcement Requirements a line item for police vehicles in capital outlay is for the annual cost to lease two (2) fully equipped police vehicles.

On page 12, the Governmental Reserve Fund 11 current year's budget has streetlights split between capital outlay appropriation and materials and services appropriation. In the proposed budget for next year, it is all in the materials and services appropriation because the plan is to have the streetlights installed by Umatilla Electric Cooperative and thus it will be materials and services expenditure not capital outlay. Light poles put it and maintained by the city would be a capital outlay expenditure.

On page 14, the street light user fee on line 5 is to add lights throughout town. It used to be 90%/ 10% split for the installation of streetlights but now city has to pay 100% and the cost is approximately \$5,000 per light pole. Aaron suggests the public to request Umatilla Electric Cooperative to do more.

Morrow County has a plan to distribute an Amazon gift payment using the same allocation that is used in distributing property taxes. The distribution regarding City of Irrigon General Obligation Debt will have to be held in funds 69 and 79 until the city is able to pay additional principal on the bonds.

On page 30, the capital improvement plan has project 6000 titled Third St & Columbia Avenue Intersection realignment. It was explained that this specific intersection is a safety issue, and the plan is to install a median preventing a turn onto Columbia Lane from the Highway.

On page 36, the capital improvement plan project 6037 for a splash park was discussed. This particular project still needs resources to complete.

## 9. Approve Tax Levy

a. General Fund - \$3.6782 per \$1,000

b. Bonded Debt- \$208,117

Michelle moved and was seconded by Roberta Hewitt to approve the tax levy of \$3.6782 per \$1,000 and \$208,117 to pay bonded debt. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. Approve the FY 2022-2023 Budget

Anderson moved to approve the 2022-2023 Budget as discussed and edited. Patton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 by Michelle Patton.

Meeting minutes completed by Amanda Ferguson.