

North Branch City Council

Work Session

Date of Meeting: August 20, 2015

Present: Councilmembers: Theresa Furman, Kathy Blomquist, Joyce Borchardt, Robert Canada, and Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy.

Also Present: City Administrator Konrad and Finance Director Hill

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. 2016 Budget

Finance Director Hill reviewed the 2016 budget with Council. Council and staff discussed budget items and whether or not to fund certain components of the budget. Hagen-Kennedy said that this budget has been cut, cut, cut and she believes a 5.38% increase is a responsible request of the taxpayers. Borchardt was concerned with the 5.38% increase. She indicated that cost of living isn't that high. She was more comfortable with a 4% increase. Canada said he would like to do some more homework and is interested in knowing where the figures for proposed taxes come from. Hill indicated that the figures are all based on Chisago County data. Furman said she could support 4%. Council is looking at either a 4% or 5.38% increase. Council asked staff for tax impact information on both proposed increases for further review.

III. Work Session Format

Konrad indicated that a suggestion was made by the mediator for a less formal work session. Konrad outlined some possible options for a less formal format for work sessions. Hagen-Kennedy is fine with more casual but she would be opposed to not streaming the meetings because residents need the ability to see what Council is talking about without having to pay \$10 for a DVD. Furman remembers when work sessions were around a table and not at the dais. Blomquist would like to still have the meetings streamed. Council agreed to sit around the staff table, still stream the meetings and see how things go. Council agreed to start with the first work session in September.

Konrad indicated she received an email about public sector controversy training. It is a \$2,800 course, two days a month for eight months and asked if this is something that she should pursue. She asked Council to let her know by Tuesday as that is the deadline to register.

Motion by Canada, seconded by Furman to adjourn.

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bridgitte Konrad, City Administrator
jrl/TOSS