SPECIAL SESSION
BUDGET WORK SESSION
March 7, 2015

Aldermen: Kevin Lower, David Sage, Diana Hauman, Judy Stearns, Scott Black, Joni Painter, Jim Fruin, Mboka Mwilambwe, Karen Schmidt and Mayor Tari Renner.

City Manager David Hales, Steve Rasmussen, Asst. City Manager, Interim City Clerk Renee Gooderham, and Corporate Counsel Jeff Jurgens, Nicole Albertson, Human Resources, Patti-Lynn Silva, Finance Director, Jim Karch, Public Works Director, Brian Mohr, Fire Chief, Brendan Heffner, Police Chief, Tom Dabareiner, Planning and Code Enforcement, Brett Lueschen, Interim Water Director, Jay Tetzloff, Interim Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director, Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director, Nora Dukowitz, Communications Manager Ken Bays, Asst. Police Chief, Carla Murillo, Budget Manager were also present.

The Work Session was called to order at 8:00 a.m. Mayor Renner cited the Work Session topic and reviewed the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Renner opened the Public Comment section of the meeting. He added that there would not be a response from the City under the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Bruce Meeks, 1402 Wright St., addressed the Council. He believed items were not available for reviewing. He believed Miller Park Zoo should be eliminated from the Budget. He recommended hiring a financial consultant. He requested that his open data policy be placed on a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Alton Franklin, 508 Patterson Dr., addressed the Council. He echoed Mr. Meeks' comments. He cited concerns with the Sugar Creek Packing Co. purchase on the March 10, 2015 Council meeting.

Mayor Renner noted there were tough choices. There was a fiscal and structural deficit last year. Some progress was made. He questioned services available and how to pay for same. He questioned cuts and possible service elimination.

The budget could be amended. He suggested precise amendments. He questioned consequences.

David Hales, City Manager, addressed the Council. The Budget presented was living within our means. It contained a listing of programs, services, costs associated, accomplishments and concerns going forward. The Directors would be providing brief presentations addressing high level issues. Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) would assist with long term financial planning. PBB provided an understanding on programs provided, setting service levels, continued operation of same and the price of government.

Finance Presentation

Patti-Lynn Silva, Finance Director, addressed the Council. She provided a Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Budget update. She noted that the $2.7 million budget deficit was resolved with expense reductions and revised revenue projects. The year would end with a break even budget.

She explained the Fund Balance (FB). FB was similar to a savings account. If revenues increase and expenditures were reduced, FB increases. FB was current fifteen percent (15%) or $14 million of expenditures. It was estimated that $2 million would be used to close deficit gaps in the Solid Waste (SW) program, U.S. Cellular Coliseum (USCC), and golf programs. This could reduce FB to $12 million.

She explained the importance of FB: 1.) cash management – fluctuations or delays in revenues; 2.) protects against emergency repairs and natural disasters/catastrophic events; 3.) preservation of credit rating and fiscal stability; and 4.) flexibility – avoiding short term borrowing. She noted that the city did not have a General Fund (GF) balance in FY 08.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends a general operating fund with no less than two (2) months of regular general fund operating revenues or expenditures. Ms. Silva stated GF expenditures were $15.7 million. She cited the outstanding liabilities related to GF. Retiree medical liability was an unfunded mandate.

Ms. Silva stated that FY 16 expenditures would increase by 3.35%. This included cost of doing business, policy or contractual increases and expenditures utilizing reserve funds. Forty – one percent (41%) of expenditures were labor related costs. She reviewed expenditures by category. The Workers Compensation expenditure was approximately $4 million and Police and Fire Pension was $10 million. The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund was the largest pension. There were approximately 1000 retired and active employees.

The GF was approximately fifty – one percent (51%) of the budget. General and Water funds were sixty – three (63%) of the budget. The USCC's one percent (1%) funding included funds required outside operations and sales tax and debt service.

She reviewed the FB summary. Reserved/restricted FB was: Water, Sewer, Solid Waste, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service, Capital Project Funds, Golf Courses, USCC, Lincoln Parking Deck and Internal Service Funds. Enterprise Funds (EF) was reserved for services. The Tax Levy was based on same. Debt service had a required funding of one (1) year in advance. Capital Project Funds was a break even fund. Forty – eight percent (48%) of revenues was from taxes.

Ms. Silva provided an overview on the proposed FY 16 General Fund (GF) Budget. GF would increase by 3.63%. Sixty – four percent (64%) of GF expenditures were employee related. Fifty percent (50%) was Public Safety.

She highlighted major expenditures: 1.) salary and benefits – increased $1.5 million; 2.) contractual – increased $824K; 3.) commodities – decrease ($550K); 3.) capital expenditures –no cash available; 4.) principal and interest – increased $756K and 5.) Intergovernmental – increased $1.2 million. Taxes will account for seventy – nine percent (79%) of GF revenues in FY 16.

No additional full time employees were in the budget. A Youth Intervention part time employee would be funded 100% by a grant for the Police Department. Street resurfacing was funded with the local motor fuel tax which was approximately $2.4 million. Capital lease would be issued for critical facility repairs/maintenance. Police and Fire Pension Funding Year two (2) would be a combination of existing property tax and a tax levy increase, adopted in November 2014. SW required $2.5 million to balance the fund. It was anticipated that FY 17 would require another GF $2.5 million transfer if changes were not made to SW.

Ms. Silva cited the FY 16 Capital Projects: 1.) $2.4 million street resurfacing – funded by the local MFT; 2.) USCC - $1.6 million video system replacement; 3.) State MFT – traffic signals, Linden St. bridge & Hamilton Rd. design; 4.) Water - $2 million emergency ION Exchange System, $2 million Groundwater Development and $1.5 million Filter Construction; 5.) Sewer - $1 million Howard Johnson Pump Station replacement, $.75 million sewer and manhole lining program, $.50 million Grove on Kickapoo Creek Sewer Oversizing and 6.) Park Dedication - $.2 million Sunnyside Park playground.

Alderman Stearns questioned the FY 15 deficit. Ms. Silva stated that the Reserve Fund was not used. Departments reduced their budgets. She noted that there would be consequences to same. Alderman Stearns requested a breakdown and consequences.

Alderman Lower questioned deferred maintenance. Ms. Silva believed deferred/reduced was the same. She noted the Police Department windows sheet rock was not under same. Seven (7) Police and Fire vacancies were not filled.

Alderman Sage questioned Governor Rauner's proposed budget reductions. Ms. Silva stated that if same was enacted the budget would have to be revisited. Mr. Hales stated that there was no contingency plan.

Alderman Lower believed that state unfunded mandates would be reduced. He requested a listing of same.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Presentation

Jay Tetzloff, Interim Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director, addressed the Council. The department was a diverse group. He noted that the department was without a Director since July 2014. Barb Wells, Recreation Superintendent was retiring April 2015.

He stated that well maintained parks increased property values. He believed that property within forty feet (40') of a park was worth $11,500 per acre.

He cited the following outreach from FY 13 – 14: 1.) 4,800 participated in Health and Wellness programs; 2.) 129,355 participated in programs and events; 3.) 10,135 participated in the Adults 55+ programs and 4.) 12,011 participated in SOAR.

Attendance for FY 13 -14 was: 1.) 53,929 swimming pools; 2.) 103,502 Miller Park Zoo; 3.) 19,189 Pepsi Ice Center open skate; 3.) 85,855 BCPA events; 4.) 62, 260 rounds of golf and 4.) many participated in the Spray Parks. Constitution Trail had approximately 5000 daily users. Thirty (30) miles of trail in Bloomington were maintained. Same was the most utilized amenity.

The FY 15 deficit was decreased by $180,000. The consequences of same were park bathroom renovations and BCPA repairs.

FY 16 Budget would increase 2.7%. He noted that same included golf and salary increases. Highlights were: 1.) Sunnyside Park development - $200,000 grant funded; 2.) Miller Park Pavilion renovations and upgrades – $125, 000 grant funded and 3.) continued treatments for Emerald Ash Borer – 177 trees. The budget did not allow for equipment replacement/repairs, replacement of two (2) staff members and capital projects to maintain infrastructure. Budget delays were: Miller Park Zoo repairs and renovations, Lincoln Leisure Center's parking lot resurfacing, O'Neil and Holiday Pool replacement, O'Neil pool mechanical room repairs, addition of employee in the BCPA ticket office, continue historic preservation of the BCPA, Prairie Vista cart paths and equipment replacement. Faithful and Gould Facility Assessment identified $5 million in repairs.

Mr. Tetzloff believed the Miller Park Zoo concession stand would generate revenue. The Pepsi Ice Center operated a FY 15 profit. SOAR served the whole community. He cited the National Recreation and Park Association Report on Cost Recovery (NRPA). The national median was 29.6% and the national upper quartile was 49.9%. Bloomington was 44.9%.

Community Development Presentation

Tom Dabareiner, Planning and Code Enforcement Director (PACE) addressed the Council. There were twenty – five (25) full time Community Development (CD) positions and five (5) vacancies. The budget was $3.5 million and generated $2.1 million. He noted that Code Enforcement Division worked with the Fire and Police Department.

The FY 16 Building Safety Division anticipated: flat revenue projects, slightly below FY 14 budget and expenses were increasing 15.6%, $100,000 below FY 14. The Planning Division anticipated FY 16: revenue projections down $3,600 and expenses increased to 5.1%. FY 16 Code Enforcement Division anticipated: revenue down five percent (5%) and a ten percent (10%) expenditure increase.

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) GF contribution was reduced from $81,000 to $10,000. $300,000 in infrastructure repairs was available to low to moderate incomes.

PACE was working on a one stop shop customer orientated process. Same would be gained with establishing performance measures, use of technology and consistently applied Ordinance based procedures. Staffing was able to manage 175 weekly inspections. April – October 2014 had insufficient building plan reviews and inspections. This translated to longer wait times equaling poor customer service. Municipal code specified Fire Inspector visit frequency. The department had two (2) inspectors which was appropriate for smaller communities. Inspections were conducted every three (3) years. The solution was reducing frequency, gaining efficiencies and adding one (1) inspector.

Alderman Sage questioned staffing projections. Mr. Dabareiner stated same was based from Code Enforcement National norms. Munis assisted with measuring individual performance.

Alderman Schmidt questioned vacancies. Mr. Dabareiner stated that the Code Inspector and Mechanical Inspector were retiring April 2015, two (2) seasonal positions and one (1) Code Enforcement Manager.

Alderman Mwilambwe questioned plan review time. Mr. Dabareiner stated the goal was to become a one stop shop. Project managers would be responsible for projects from start to finish. He believed efficiencies required investment.

Water Department Presentation

Brett Lueschen, Interim Water Director, addressed the Council. He noted that Bloomington's water was consistently higher in quality than required by federal and state drinking water regulations. The Department employed fifty (50) full time employees and seven (7) seasonal staff consisting of six (6) divisions.

Mr. Lueschen highlighted the FY16 Proposed Budget. The Department operated as an Enterprise Fund. The product produced supports the Operating Expenses and Capital Projects. The Master Plan was expected to be completed. Same would outline a twenty (20) year capital improvement plan and suggested rate modifications. FY16 projects included: radio frequency water meter project, groundwater supply development projects and upgrades to the Water Treatment Facility.

Mr. Lueschen cited the following challenges due to staffing levels: customer service, emergency response time, repair/replace aging underground infrastructure, and replacement/repair Water Treatment Plant aging infrastructure.

Alderman Sage questioned drought preparation. David Hales, City Manager, addressed the Council. The Farnsworth Group was working on an analysis/report. He noted the cost increase for the southwest interim well field. The focus on same was the Water Treatment Plant.

Police Department Presentation

Ken Bays, Asst. Police Chief, addressed the Council. The Department had 128 sworn police officers, five (5) vacancies and five (5) support staff. He cited the following services provided: patrol coverage, canine unit, Downtown hire back, Criminal Investigations Division, Communication Center, Records/Evidence management, Community Service Officers, problem oriented policing, SWAT, Crisis Negotiation Unit, Public Information Officer, School Resource Officers and Street Crimes Division.

Asst. Chief Bays noted that the Records/Evidence Management processed Freedom of Information Requests (FOIA) approximately twenty – five (25) hours per month in 2013. Internal processes changed increased processing FOIA to 252 hours per month. Crime had decline thirteen percent (13%). Filling vacancies were to maintain same.

He cited the following unfunded mandates: concealed carry screening, sex offender monitoring and registration, child murders/violent officer monitoring and registration, clean and present danger documentation and reporting, traffic stop data collection, and filling FOIA requests.

Asst. Chief Bays noted the FY16 Operating Budget was $1 million less than FY 09. The following were consequences of same: increased response times, reduced customer service, reduction in specialized services, increases in overall crime rate, less intervention and prevention, efforts to increase recruitment would be unrealized, more reactive and less proactive, overtime increases and revised priorities.

Brendan Heffner, Police Chief, addressed the Council. He believed that police presence could not be quantified. Calls for service were increasing. He believed the current level of services could not be maintained without existing resources.

Alderman Schmidt thanked Sara Mayer, Police Patrol/Communication Officer (PPO). She questioned Downtown Hire Back costs. Chief Heffner stated approximately $114,000, equivalent of one (1) PPO.

Alderman Stearns questioned School Resource Budget. Asst. Chief Bays responded approximately $300,000 for four (4) PPO, less District 87 and McLean County Unit District 5. Alderman Stearns questioned increasing contribution. Chief Heffner noted that same had same budget concerns. There was value with maintaining the School Resource Officer. David Hales, City Manager, noted that during the Recession some Municipalities eliminated same.

Fire Department Presentation

Brian Mohr, Fire Chief, addressed the Council. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 was a standard regarding personnel deployment and fires and medical emergencies response time. He cited response time analysis. The goal was six (6) minutes. Current time was eight (8) minutes for Fire and nine (9) minutes for EMS.

Chief Mohr noted the following increases: call volume four percent (4%), structure fires twenty – four percent (24%) and EMS eight percent (8%).

Headquarters Fire Station, located at 310 N. Lee St. Medic 1 was the busiest unit. Same had 3277 ambulance calls. Unit availability accessed the nearest Fire Station to respond. Call volume increased 414 from 2013.

The Illinois Fire Chief Association (IFCA) recommended staffing increases to reduce overtime. Three (3) entry level firefighters were removed due to the FY 16 budget deficit. Chief Mohr stated with retirements the IFCA recommendation would not be met. He noted that establishing an entry level firefighter eligibility list takes approximately four to five (4 – 5) months. Five (5) retirements were anticipated for FY 16. Chief Mohr cited that the national average number of firefighters per 1000 population was 1.70. The City had 1.34 firefighters per 1000.

There was a 6.5% increase in training. Chief Mohr attributed the training tower utilization for same.

Chief Mohr cited the 2015 accomplishments: International Organization for Standardization (ISO) class two (2) rating, updated radios to utilize STARCOM, apparatus replacement and HQ Station maintenance. The FY 16 focus would include: new agreement with Central IL Regional Airport, collaboration with Town of Normal on shared Automatic Vehicle Location, video conferencing, update Emergency Operation Plan, upgrade Firehouse Reporting Software, update run card for improved response time using New Priority Dispatch System, integration of pre plan information with the CAD, exhaust removal systems, and health and wellness initiative to decrease on the job injuries. He cited future needs: traffic preemption, additional ambulance, reinstate Engine Company at Station 3, acquire future Station location northeast, electronic patient care reporting system, and create long term capital plan addressing Station improvements.

Alderman Sage questioned ISO rating on homeowner insurance. Chief Mohr responded that the impact was significant on commercial property. Not all insurance agencies utilize ISO.

Alderman Black requested quarterly updates on initiatives and response time.

Alderman Lower questioned preemptive signals on Veterans Parkway. Chief Mohr stated that same would have a response time impact including distance traveled.

Alderman Hauman questioned reducing response time. Chief Mohr responded that distance traveled and unit availability were concerns.

Public Works Presentation

Jim Karch, Public Works Director, addressed the Council. He believed that Public Works had a large impact on infrastructure. He noted the Department had 106 full time employees. He noted that the Engineering Division had been reduced forty percent (40%) in 2008. Same translated to no in house design. The Solid Waste Division had forty – one (41) employees and streets and sewers had twenty – eight (28).

He believed FY16 would not address the required infrastructure needs. Infrastructure continued to be underfunded. He noted FY 16 major projects. There were no General Fund capital projects. Resurfacing and sidewalks budget was $2.4 million. Same included $200,000 for required sidewalk ramp replacement. The Sidewalk Master Plan (SMP) was completed in house. The Illinois Public Works Association nominated the SMP for a national management innovation award.

The Sewer Fund Budget had increased over the years. He cited the following FY16 projects: H. Johnson pump station replacement, sewer lining and manhole repair, The Grove at Kickapoo Creek oversizing and CCTV evaluation. Objective performance measures had been established.

FY 16 resurfacing budget had decreased from $10 million to $2.2 million. Resurfacing required $7 million plus five percent (5%) inflator increases to address needs.

Mr. Karch reminded Council that the Solid Waste Program (SWP) was an Enterprise Fund (EF). Fees rather than taxes pay for the service. Per Council EF policy the SWP was required to be self-supporting and accumulate a ten percent (10%) reserve. SWP had a deficit. He noted that a proposal to address same would be on the March 9, 2015 Council meeting.

Alderman Lower questioned changing the asphalt chemistry for resurfacing. Mr. Karch responded that same was a possibility. He noted that asphalt plants were large industrial. Same were hard to obtain competition. Asphalt temperature must be in the 300 degree range.

Alderman Black believed sidewalk safety was critical.

Alderman Stearns questioned street rating and funding. Mr. Karch responded that a good level was $80 million. Alderman Stearns questioned sewer upgrades. Mr. Karch stated $80 million for same and $30 million for storm water.

Alderman Mwilambwe questioned results for $2.4 million resurfacing. Mr. Karch stated in house crews had assisted FY 15. He noted with enough staff, equipment and resources all resurfacing could be conducted in house.

Support Staff Services

David Hales, City Manager, addressed the Council. He introduced Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel; Scott Sprouls, Information Services Director, and Nicole Albertson, Human Resources Director. He reminded Council that Support Staff support line Departments.

Mr. Jurgens addressed the Council. The Legal Department was .6% of the overall budget. It was projected that the Department would spend $60,000 less than FY 14. FY 16 budget was $100,000 less. He cited the following upcoming programs: Administrative Court, standardized contracts and procedural updates. Employment issues and negations took the bulk of time. There was one (1) in house attorney. Sorling Northrup had discounted approximately $130,000 attorney fees. In FY15 there were 3600 billable hours. Same was equivalent to 2.9 employees per month.

Mr. Sprouls addressed the Council. The Department had ten (10) full time staff members, two (2) contract employees, supporting 3000 devices. He noted that the technically infrastructure was eight (8) years old. He cited the following programs: Munis; utility billing, time keeping, work order and inventory/assent, video surveillance and Fire Department video conferencing.

Ms. Albertson addressed the Council. She cited the following projects: time to hire metric, diversity recruitment, establish benchmarks, training and safety. Unions were notified that negotiations needed to be completed prior to contract expiration. The goal was to reduce retro pay.

Mr. Hales provided an update on the U.S. Cellular Coliseum (USCC). He noted that FY16 had significant expenditures including the video board replacement. The management contract with Central Illinois Arena Management expiresd 2017. Similar venues were struggling financially.

He noted that past Council's had established dedicated revenue to address USCC and BCPA. Each debt service and operating had .25% dedicated to same. He believed the Council's understood both required subsidizing.

Mr. Hales noted that a new Facilities Manager was hired. Russ Waller would develop a plan to address the $30 million deferred maintenance concern. Same did not address future plans.

A five (5) year capital financing plan was established. Same would review Master Plans and prioritize projects that were feasible with current revenue sources.

Mr. Hales cited financial achievements gained in the last six (6) years. He believed the challenge was to establish a long term financial plan. He believed the deficit could not be solved by reductions, revenue was required. Priority Based Budgeting would assist with evaluating services and the cost association with same. He noted the FY16 budget was unsustainable.

Mayor Renner believed there were no easy decisions.

Alderman Black questioned direction. Mr. Hales questioned comfort level with budget as presented. Did the majority of Council want changes? If so staff would work through solutions.

Alderman Stearns questioned reductions and prioritizations. Mayor Renner believed departments had stated that their budgets were lean. They would continue to look for efficiencies. Same would not solve a structural deficit.

Alderman Stearns requested service/program reduction consequences. Mayor Renner stated Council would inform staff which service/program reductions were needed. Staff would then provide consequences to same. Mr. Hales requested that Council provide an exact reduction figure and staff would present a sustainable budget.

Alderman Lower noted the Illinois Policy Institute suggested flat lining expenses and that same would increase the overall tax base. Services needed to be prioritized. He questioned funding public entertainment.

Alderman Black requested modeling and consequences going forward.

Alderman Schmidt stated she had heard citizens question fees versus the raising property tax. She questioned the property tax coverage versus regressive tax and to model same.

Mayor Renner requested Council provide specific examples to the following: 1.) what were possible FY16 and FY17 cost savings/cuts; 2.) what were possible FY16 and FY17 revenues/additional income and 3.) what models should staff provide.

Alderman Sage questioned golf courses total costs and market base. He requested modeling for city wide services that could be delivered by another entity. He questioned mowing and cost recovery based on same.

Alderman Hauman requested possible revenue increases and budget application.

Alderman Lower questioned in house engineering design. Mr. Karch cited resource issues.

Alderman Black believed there was a benefit to tying revenues to services consumed. He cited concern with reducing professional development.

Alderman Stearns questioned sustainable savings for future infrastructure/streets.

Alderman Mwilambwe believed city labor costs were biggest expense. He questioned decrease to same with efficiencies and effectiveness. He cited technology.

Alderman Sage questioned activity fees compared to the Town of Normal.

The following were Council recommendations.

Possible Savings FY16

- Don't acquire property
- Don't replace signage at Coliseum
- Let private entity replace Coliseum signage
- *Think about the future building use of the Coliseum
- Not so much paper/printing (inserts)
- Downtown lighting
- Discontinue National Development Corp (NDC) and other consultants
- See projects through
- Freeze pay- non-union
- Eliminate Pcards/lunches/non-essential travel
- Reduce Council pay

Possible Revenues FY16

- License bicycles
- Vehicle stickers tied to weight
- Taxes? Electric cars?
- Surcharge/discount on tickets based on residency
- Sales tax
- Property tax
- Signature event
- *Be competitive with Normal and others
- Grinding branches from bulk waste for mulch and selling same

Savings FY17+

- Privatize golf?
- Outsource mowing?
- Highland -> change dynamic? (park/cemetery)
- Possible leaf disposal (farmer that doesn't charge)
- CIAM City staff manage
- Only pay mortgage on Coliseum
- Get out of parking business
- Cost of Police buyback
- Schools pay more for School Resource Officer (SRO)
- Combine Bloomington and Normal Parks? Police? Fire?

Revenue FY17+

- Get list of City property for possible sale

- CIAM
- Vacant Fire station? Decentralize Public Works?
- Sales tax
- Property tax

Models from Staff
- List of unfunded mandates and cost recovery
- Flatline budget model
- Model that offsets smaller taxes with property tax
- Creative ways to decrease labor costs? Technology?
- Leasing Fire Station 5

Mr. Hales questioned priorities.

Mayor Renner requested take away from the Citizen Summit held on January 20, 2015.

Alderman Mwilambwe stated initial conversation surrounded budget reductions. The group realized impact of same. He believed the CS should have requested priorities from attendees.

Alderman Hauman noted that two (2) landlords were in her group. There was a consensus to charge for bulk waste. There was a willingness to pay for specific things. The citizens required specific budget application for same. They questioned value.

Alderman Painter believed her group considered their best interests rather than big picture.

Alderman Stearns stated her group requested city efficiencies and no fee or tax increases. They suggested businesses and landlords should be involved with recycling.

Alderman Black stated spent time educating citizens on choices and consequences.

Alderman Schmidt stated there was frustration on the number of Unions. Mayor Renner noted there were eleven (11) Bargaining Units.

Alderman Sage noted that his group was not willing to pay more for SW.

Alderman Lower stated the recommendations were to stream line or reductions to SW. There were no recommendations to fee/tax increases.

Mayor Renner noted there was a request to allow Public Comment.

Motion by Alderman Hauman, seconded by Alderman Stearns to suspend the rules to allow for additional Public Comment not to exceed three (3) minutes apiece.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

John Brandt, 2004 Trotter Ln., addressed the Council. He believed the city was in the business to supply streets, water and sewers. Staff was the greatest asset for same. The city should not be in the business of property ownership and things. He recommended leasing police vehicles, selling all buildings and leasing same. Invest in employees. Bruce Meeks, 1402 Wright St., addressed the Council. He suggested forming a Park District. He questioned P card benefit. He recommended a budget that listed by line item the fee associated with same. He believed more work was required to bring businesses to the City.

Alton Franklin, 508 Patterson Dr., addressed the Council. He believed Golf Courses were not essential services. He echoed Mr. Meeks. City services if not used should be privatized.

Mayor Renner believed citizens enjoyed city services. Golf Courses were not a necessity. He believed same would not be easy to divest. User fees should be reassessed. He questioned the current service levels. He reminded Council that inflation would be associated with same. He believed that there were benefits to services that citizens did not realize. Downtown investment was a necessity for job creation.

Mr. Hales recommend adding suggestions into a long term Fiscal Sustainability Action Plan document. He requested Council majority on priorities/timelines to provide clear staff direction. He questioned what a sustainable budget was. Same would provide the community clear information. He recommended providing Council with consequential information from today's suggestions. Council would then consolidate/prioritize same.

Alderman Lower questioned cancelling/postponing Rt. 66/Towanda trail payment. Mr. Hales stated the Intergovernmental Agreement required review. Alderman Lower recommended the following: selling the Lincoln Leisure facility, located at 1206 S. Lee St. He suggested moving programs from same to the Government Center, located at 115 E. Washington St.

Alderman Sage had concerns with the proposed State reductions. He requested a plan for same. He questioned raising property taxes, meeting operational expenses with the citizens who consumed same.

Alderman Schmidt recommended savings prior to property tax increases.

Alderman Black requested different modeling in anticipation of State reductions. He believed same assisted with citizen education. He believed service reductions were inevitable.

Alderman Stearns requested a listing of vacant/under used/storage property. She requested a BCPA/USCC performance costs/profits listing. She questioned subsidizing same.

Alderman Painter believed balance was required. She suggested evaluating deferral costs with future costs.

Motion by Alderman Stearns, seconded by Alderman Black to adjourn. Time: 2:30 p.m.

Motion carried, (viva voce).

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Gooderham
Interim City Clerk