

**CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS, MN
ANOKA COUNTY**

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION NOTES
DECEMBER 28, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Work Session via Zoom was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Steve Feldman.

Roll Call: Present were Mayor Steve Feldman, Council members Kevin Robinson, Joe Muehlbauer, and Sarah Udvig. Bauer started viewing the meeting at 6:09 pm. Also present were City Administrator Joe Kohlmann

2. Financial Overview

City Administrator Joe Kohlmann reported back in 2015 the City completed a comprehensive long-term financial management plan. This long-term plan was a requirement to obtain funding for the construction of the new wastewater plant. Kohlmann stated I believe it is important to look at where the city was going and where the city is actually at today. All major projects identified in the in this financial management plan have been completed or are scheduled in be completed in the near future.

Items not identified in the financial plan was the addition of additional staffing. Such as fire chief, additional police officer, community development director, community development specialist and account tech/deputy clerk. All these positions have a direct impact on the tax levy. With the additional staffing and completed projects we are substantially still under the projected levy amount of about \$500,000 to \$600,000 that is a huge victory. I consider that a huge win and I just wanted to show the council of the effectiveness of the decisions that have been made over the last five years. Kohlmann went over other areas also such as water/sewer rates, debt levy and city tax to homeowners all went down. Sometimes it is good to review this periodically and stated the council has done a good job. You should commend yourself.

Feldman said what this shows me that within the last four years with council and staff working together we have strong budgetary management in place. We are spending money but getting a return on the dollars.

Bauer joined meeting at 6:09 pm.

Muehlbauer said happy to see the numbers and hoping to continue this trend. Let's keep this in mind when we are looking at building in the future, maybe save more before we start them.

Udvig said she appreciates seeing these numbers. Its great that we are being fiscally responsible while we are still getting things done. Believe it has to do with good money management better than what has been done in the past.

Feldman said not only are the residents paying less they are getting better service because how we are planning and because of our budgets.

Robinson good to see that we are working within our means. What about seeing a report for future expenditures? I like what I see.

Bauer sorry I am late. The last four years I have said I want to cut 5% out of the budget. But to now look at this report and the management the last four years it makes me feel good. Would like to duplicate this over the next four years at least. I really like this report and thanked Joe for presenting these numbers to the council.

Feldman said planning for the future city hall/fire station is important and size it to our pocket book and plan it properly. Feldman also spoke on a couple bonds when they expire. Robinson asked to explain them in more detail. Kohlmann explained it for the council. Robinson also asked if we could also look at incorporating the post office possibly library and start the conversation now so we could be ready. Who do we speak too, maybe have Kate check into contacts. Feldman said any incorporation we can do would be great.

3. Fire Department

Kohlmann stated with the addition of the Fire Management Service Contract with Nowthen I did tell the fire chief previously I would look at the pointing of his job in the event we did secure the contract. We do have this booklet that we follow to point/rate jobs based on different categories. The information I gave you tonight is supported by the grading system we have in place. When that position was added originally we put it on the scale where the budget support it. But too, we did not have this contract either. Along with the chief's new role there will also be more time commitment and work load for the assistant fire chief. After additional explanation Kohlmann stated the request is for additional compensation for the both the fire chief and assistant fire chief.

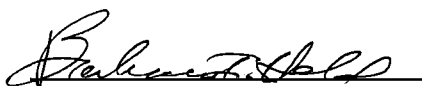
The council went into a lengthy discussion on reasoning for and against the increase in the salaries for both positions. Council would like to have more discussion at another work session.

4. Public Works

Kohlmann stated I just received word today that the public work union will be disbanding effective January 1, 2021. So we are going to have to go through the contract versus our personnel policy. Some of the items for discussion will be boot allowance, on call pay to name a few items. Those items will have to be incorporated into our personnel policy so this will probably just be brought back to a future council meeting.

5. Adjourn

Mayor Feldman adjourned the work session at 8:24 pm.


Barbara I. Held, City Clerk