

CITY OF HAUSER, IDAHO

Location: Hauser City Hall, 11837 N. Hauser Lake Road, Hauser, Idaho 83854

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP – July 27, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:39 p.m. – Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL: Councilmembers: Mallon, present; Hynes, present; Hatfield, present; Lefebvre, present
Also present: Cheri Howell, City Code Administrator
Tina McCoy, Treasurer**

Tina McCoy, Treasurer, led the group in discussion of the 2011-2012 Budget planning. Highlights included:

- Mayor Johnston suggested going over preliminary budget line by line.
- Mayor Johnston asked to “knock off” one half of her wages and at least \$50 of councilmembers.
- Mayor Johnston suggested having one council meeting per month instead of two. Hynes responded that better communication among councilmembers is needed. A heated discussion followed on communication.
- Mayor Johnston said she talked to the City Clerk, Donna Ray, about cutting some of her hours. Ray responded that councilmembers need to understand that if that happens, some things may not get done. Discussion followed.
- Councilmember Lefebvre said he thought cutbacks would happen once the zoning ordinance was completed. The monies spent on the Comprehensive Plan and Development Code will end once all is complete. He suggested cutting 20% of salaries, and cut Streets and Planning and Zoning 25%. Discussion and explanation by Cheri Howell followed on Planning and Zoning issues including Post Falls wanting to annex property from Hauser ACI. More discussion followed. Three-way communication between City of Hauser, Kootenai County and Post Falls is the best approach per Howell. Further descriptions from Howell and discussion ensued. McCoy suggested having C. Howell represent City of Hauser. Howell said this would carry forward into next year, and said this is a very important issue.
- Councilmember Lefebvre said he wasn’t inclined to agree with cutting Councilmember salaries. He explained that no one works for nothing. We just need to stop spending.
- McCoy asked for clarification. Take 25% off the \$7,200 budgeted last year, and 25% cut on code administrator hours and 50% of the streets. McCoy said we can just do away with the extra hours for P & Z.

- Lefebvre asked where the fees go that Hauser Daze charges. How does the City know where the granted fee waiver funds go. McCoy explained. Howell said the City has never been given an accounting. Further discussion ensued regarding the expectations that the City gets the insurance, the City gets all the required permits. Mayor Johnston inserted that this is a community event. McCoy explained the dynamics, and Hatfield said the City will lose revenue when continually waiving fees. Lefebvre wants an accounting! More discussion followed.
- C. Howell explained the day-to-day Class I permit process and code enforcement would be done by a building inspector. There is not enough money allocated for this. You will never recoup the costs of Code Enforcement.
- Lefebvre asked about Buildings and Property saying we need to eliminate a new computer and safe, at least temporarily.
- Lefebvre asked about Street Repair and suggested to cut the budgeted figure.
- Hynes asked how much is actually needed to finish the Development Code. She also asked what kind of office equipment is needed. Discussion followed.
- Howell said Planning and Zoning has dropped the Town Hall meetings to save money.
- Mayor Johnston asked about property tax this year. Some discussion followed.

Councilmember Lefebvre moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hatfield seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Donna Ray, City Clerk

Olita Johnston, Mayor