

Public Safety Committee

Met 12/18/2024

Members present: Alderman McClure, Tadio, Whitcomb and Chair Davis

Also present: President Talbott, Mayor Doenges, Chief Lovett, Chief Kilcullen, Tyler Dahlin from Recreation, Commissioner Protivansky, Treasurer Markowski and Alderman Barbagallo.

Meeting began at 5:30pm

Topic: The equipment replacement funds.

First was the discussion of the Fire Equipment fund which currently generates 175,000.00 dollars off the tax rate. Chief Lovett was requesting an increase due to replacing a fire truck at 1.2 million dollars. He is requesting an additional 50,000.00 dollars to be generated into the fund. The committee agreed and the motion was made to change the rate generated into the Fire equipment replacement fund from .0175 to .0225 and I so move. This will allow 225,000.00 dollars to be generated yearly.

The next discussion was that the Police/ DPW and Recreation current split the current equipment replacement fund. This fund generate currently 120,000 dollars. A police car alone costs 85,000.00 dollars fully equipped and are replaced every 3 years by charter. Police were only allowed 57,000.00 dollars. They recycle cars as appropriate to BCI etc.

The committee felt it was appropriate to establish a Police equipment replacement fund based on cost and need. Cars can be ordered fully equipped and ready in about 6 months.

The treasure and the police chief felt that 180,000.00 dollars generated yearly off the tax rate would allow them to purchase and not lease, avoid interest rates and saved taxpayer dollars. This will allow trade ins to occur and supplement the fund as well.

The motion was to approve the establishment of a new police fire equipment fund and to generate .018 on the tax rate yearly and I so move. The impact of this new fund would be 27.00 dollars yearly. would also remove vehicles from the budget.

The current equipment fund will remain the same at 120,000.00 dollars to be split between recreation and DPW. Both Tyler and Commissioner Protivansky felt the 50-50 split was helpful to them and they would make it work. If unspent in the year it is allowed to roll over.

Impact on the tax rate will go from 44.25 yearly to 78.75 yearly. This is a significant savings to the taxpayers for not bonding for equipment or budgeting for.

Request the City clerk set the necessary public hearing so this question will be on the March ballot.

Move to refer to charter and ordinance the question of replacement for Police vehicles to change the language from years to mileage and I so move.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Davis chair