

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS
MAY 21, 2003

The Council of the City of Ruidoso Downs met in a budget workshop session on May 21, 2003. Mayor Miller called the budget workshop to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked Tommy Hood to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon roll call, the following members were present:

Councilor Olivo
Councilor Miller

Councilor Morales
Councilor Garrett

Also present were:

John Waters, City Administrator
Carol Virden, City Clerk
Robert Logan, Chief of Police
Ken Mosley, Public Works Director
Tom Armstrong, License/Permit Supervisor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Miller entertained a motion to approve agenda. Councilor Olivo moved to approve agenda. Second by Councilor Garrett. Roll Call Votes: Councilor Olivo aye; Councilor Morales aye; Councilor Miller aye; and Councilor Garrett aye. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004 BUDGET PART I

City Administrator Waters informed Council members that staff has provided them with new notebooks with budget information, which makes it easier to turn pages.

Mr. Waters stated that the preliminary budget submittal due date is June 1, 2003 in Santa Fe and final budget submission due date is July 31, 2003.

Mr. Waters stated that staff recommends a 3.5% increase in wages across the board for all employees in both the Enterprise fund and General Fund. There are only two groups of employees that would be getting more than that next year. The police officers at Step II, after they complete their first year, we are talking about raising that to \$13.98 and when we meet Step III, raising that to \$15.03. These put us close although not quite at our larger neighbors' wages. If you add in our health insurance and these wages that puts us a little bit above both of them so that should make us competitive for the next few years to be able to keep these officer. There is nothing we can do to make them sign a contract to

stay here for a certain period of time. These are the only two large increases. Council can change to add or subtract.

Councilor Miller asked what percentage of the insurance stands at? Mr. Waters informed that insurance is still at a 90% City and 10% employee.

Councilor Morales informed that in looking at proposed salary increase of 3.5% for Police Officers and the 5% that in Step II and Step III look alike. Mr. Waters informed that Step II is a 10% increase and Step III is at 13%.

Mr. Waters stated that he will go through each department and Council can stop and ask questions of him or the department heads.

Councilor Morales asked if budget workshop could stop at 6:30 p.m. so that she may attend Rosary Services for Mrs. Pete Baca. Council agreed.

Mr. Waters began with Legislative Department, which includes Mayor and Council expenses to travel, the Mayor's vehicle, workers' compensation, telephone and communications. You will notice the personnel cost for uniforms. I put this in here for the shirts the Council wanted last year with the logo have been ordered this year so this may be a carry over; I just wanted to make sure it was budgeted. In addition, we are running out of pins. We have pins now that City of Ruidoso Downs.

Mayor Miller at this time recognized Commission Leo Martinez. Commissioner Martinez thanked Council Miller for attending Lincoln County Commissioner's Meeting.

Mr. Waters informed Council that under Legislative Department that a line item for the Mayor's Office and Council were for the purchase of conference furniture.

Councilor Morales asked what as happened to our sound equipment. Clerk Virden said I have gotten a couple of quotes and the first time they came above what we had budgeted. We asked for an increase in that line time and when I went out for more quotes they came back over the increase. The last one I got was \$13,000 and I think we were allowed \$9,000 total. I have gone from Ruidoso Downs to Ruidoso to Alamogordo to Las Cruces. We are still working on it and hopefully we can find someone to help us with that service.

Councilor Morales asked about the NTS Long Distance. Mr. Waters said we are doing research on changing the system. We can't go out and choose someone with a contract of this size. The State Contract is currently held by MCI. We can put it out for an annual bid which will give every company an opportunity to bid.

Municipal Court Department – Mr. Waters stated this is the budget Judge Mansell presented to staff with an increase of \$4,065.00. The Executive Branch

has no authority over what he gives us. Judge Mansell adjusted his request to increase the clerk's salary to 3.5%. He would like whatever the city has for the rest of the staff; he would like his court clerk to have that same amount of increase. If Council has any questions for the Judge, they can request his presence.

Executive Branch Department – Mr. Waters informed that this department includes himself and the City Clerk.

Mr. Waters informed Council that Capital Outlay were carry over for Council Chamber Improvements, PA System. Councilor Morales asked about the PA system for Council Chambers. Mr. Waters informed that salary increase is 3.5%.

City Hall additions are also a carry over. Plans have gone out for bids and hopefully construction will begin this month.

Finance and Administration Department - Mr. Waters informed that the insurance liability was increased by \$10,680.00. We had some problems with General Liability due to problems particularly in the Police Department. This is figured by taking the last three years into account. There have been 24 claims filed during the two prior years and there have been four since. Things are changing in Ruidoso Downs with the adoption of the personnel policy by Councilors. Lawsuits - you had a bunch of them and you still have a bunch of them from the past. We have only had three filed since then and we have won one already. We have a good safety training program; we got a rebate last year and we are expecting another one this year. Staff is working hard to make sure we limit our liabilities. This year is high and next year, if we don't have any major surprises, it should go down.

We have some people that come by after hours to pay their water bills and they have to slide it under the door. We have looked into a drive by night deposit box. It will be useful for the city and it will be appreciated by the citizens.

Parks and Recreation Department – This is under Public Works and this department is responsible for taking care of facilities, maintenance of buildings and the parks. They also constructed our very nice Heights Park. They also landscaped in front of city hall. Steve and Bill are very hard workers and a credit to the City of Ruidoso Downs. They only have a \$1,000 debt increase in operating expenditures and that has to do with the fact that we have another park.

The capital expenditures - the two big items are the basketball court that we are going to be pouring and the skate park. We budgeted \$60,000 of city money supposing we get the \$40,000 in grants and private matches. The fundraiser put on by Bonnie Richard and Parks & Rec raised \$2,040. We have asked for a grant from the Hubbard Foundation of \$40,000. We are applying for the Tony

Hawk Foundation Grant; that cycle comes up at the end of June 2003 for \$20-\$25,000 grant. The Council has designated the Wal-Mart Grant to the skateboard park. Total projected cost is \$100,000.00.

Councilor Miller said parents want lights, bathrooms, drinking water and possibly a telephone. Mr. Waters informed council all of amenities are there except for a public phone. Mayor Miller suggested an intercom for the park.

Councilor Olivo thanked Ada Hendrix for coming down and spending all day at Senior Citizens Center.

Mr. Water said we have the ATV 4-wheel utility vehicle for the baseball field and a portable generator.

Councilor asked is the basketball court going to cost us that much more. Mr. Waters said this is money left in that was budgeted last year. Attorney Bryant will talk about this issue at the Council meeting.

Bonnie Richardson asked are there any more funds for the parks project. Mr. Waters said we do have some in the non-promotional lodgers' tax. We have applied for a grant for the pedestrian walking path around the All American Park. Hopefully, we will hear about that soon. As far as the crossing across the highway, we are fighting with the State over that right now.

Paving for Senior Citizens Parking Lot - Ada Hendrix said she has not had the opportunity to talk with Tom Stewart. Hopefully the County Road Department would do the work and the City of Ruidoso Downs would pay for all materials. Commissioner Martinez said 85 percent of the money that runs the county budget comes from Ruidoso and surrounding areas so don't be afraid to ask for some of that money back. As long as I am there, some of that money should be coming back either in time or money. Mr. Waters said he would like to present it to the County Manager and have him take it to the County Commissioners.

Senior Citizens Department - Ada Hendrix and Tommy Hood were both in attendance. This year we have some money for vehicle maintenance and repair, \$500 in building maintenance and repair, the cost for the driver at \$22,890, the recreational activities of \$5,000. One of the big changes is we are shifting money from equipment over to the utilities. Ada Hendrix stated it is over budget in utilities for this center and with the new air conditioner system just installed the costs are anticipated even cost. She asked if Council to consider taking over the electric bill or increase the line item to \$8800.00. Mr. Waters said staff proposes not taking over the electric bill instead compensate them on the electrical costs. That is the basis behind moving the majority of the monies from operation to the utilities.

Morales had questions about the \$5,000 activity fee. Mr. Waters said the activity fee was raised in the past either in 2000 or 2001. We are still looking into this. Some of it was signed over. There was one question on the current activity fund and that was what could be purchased with it. Councilor Miller said it was in a personal account and it never should have been; it should have been in the county's account. Mr. Waters said they cannot use it for gifts because it violates the anti-donation clause but they can use it for the actual activities. Ada Hendrix said I never authorized that. The Village notified me there was activities fund that was being handled by an activities group at the Senior Center; they had nothing to do with Lincoln County operations. They did that outside of our operation. When the funds were put into Lincoln County, they go into our budget, we obtain purchase orders for every purchase. We do allow them to purchase gifts for prizes for the tournaments that the seniors have for activities. We have documentation to back everything up.

Councilor Olivo said we pay a lot for trash. We notice a lot of citizens dumping at the Senior Citizens Center dumpsters. Is there any way we could get locks for them. Mr. Waters said those dumpsters are there for the park and the Senior Citizens Center and they are utilized as such. Yes, we do have drive by dumpers. It is costly in some areas. When we get the park developed and pave the parking lot as indicated in the plan, we will be able to keep a better track of what is going on late at night. We could increase police protection. We could lock them at night but we would have to unlock them during the day for the park use. Tommy Hood said we don't have as much problem as we did in the past.

Mrs. Blaney with Keep New Mexico Beautiful Program said it would be better to have them use your dumpster instead of illegal dumping. Commissioner Martinez said being on the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority all you have to do is call Debra Ingle and our goal is to make sure there is nothing left around a dumpster or empty them because that is our aim is to have them dump it in a dumpster and not on the street.

Ada Hendrix said she wanted to clarify one item on personnel the insurance has increased. Last year it was \$2,688 and this year \$3,188 so the total request is \$23,409.00.

Department of Public Safety - Mr. Waters said we have already transferred animal control and code enforcement to this department. The Police Department itself as part of the DPS is asking for a new unit to recycle an old one out. Essentially what we would like to do is recycle the vehicles out on a five-year basis.

The flooring in the Police Department is gross and needs to be replaced with industrial carpet and tile.

Personnel Cost – due to fact we have problems with coverage particularly when officers go on vacation and training, Chief Logan is requesting another officer. Remember we are obligated to supply an officer to the NEU and does affect the schedule here.

Councilor Miller asked if there were a total of 8 officers. Chief Logan informed Council that there are a total of 11 certified officers, including himself and Deputy Hightower.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miller entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Morales moved to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Second by Councilor Garrett. Motion carried.

Bob A. Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carol Virden City Clerk