

A Study Session of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Monday, December 15, 2008; opening at 5:10 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided.

Present: Shepp, Wiegand, Zubrzycki, Lorenz,  
Absent: Maurina  
Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Clippert

Yes: All  
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Approval of Agenda

Moved by Wiegand, seconded Zubrzycki, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yes: All  
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

#### Discussion of Budget

**B-008-08**

Martin provided a handout of some ideas for revenue increases and expenditures to cut, adding that these are not all recommendations, but discussion points.

He gave a brief description of each budget and how they are funded, what can be charged to them and what cannot be charged to them.

He reviewed the general fund budget for 2008/2009 has an approved projected deficit of \$104,956.

There are very few revenue line items that council has much control over. Charges for services could have the greatest impact on the budget. These would include dock, ramp, beach, sport, park registration, boat registration and RVA fees. City Council has already approved a \$100 fee to be on the dock wait list, which will generate approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 the first year and around \$500 each year after. Also Council approved a \$25 fee for rack storage, which could bring in approximately \$500 annually. With these changes, there would be a first-year increase in revenue of \$15,500 to \$20,000 and an increase for subsequent years of approximately \$1,000.

Other options to look at would be opening the parks to the public and charging non-residents a \$100 (example) annual fee, create a marketing campaign to increase resident-sponsored use of the Community Center, or opening the Community Center to non-residents for a higher fee. Another option would be to sell property (Memorial Park or portion of Community Center). He explained the income from the sale and the income from property taxes, pointing out the income from property taxes is minimal. Martin would not recommend selling property at this time.

Zubrzycki asked if the property at the point could be sold. Martin explained it is road right-of-way and can't be sold. It can be vacated, but no revenue would come of that. They could ask for a donation for the property. Martin asked council to discuss this with him before approaching the resident.

Martin commented that City Council has stated they did not want to increase the park fees at this time so there is no increase noted.

Another option Martin stated would be a power shift for the police. Have a part-time officer work a few 4-hour shifts per week to bring in extra revenue.

The total increase from revenue options could be \$31,000 to \$41,000 not including the revenue from the sale of property.

Possible expenditure savings could be: Close City Hall one day a week. This would save on part-time front counter help and save on utilities. The Police, Clerk/Treasurer and City Manager would still work 5-days a week. Martin discussed other municipalities are opting to four 10-hour days but this would not have the same savings. He would like to implement this soon.

Mowing City Hall every other week and reduce Code Enforcement to 10 hours a week. Gas and oil is price dependent and has been cut in half since budget was adopted.

Street lighting could be special assessed removing the cost from the general fund. Reduce the amount of time spent by the Planning Consultant to only reviewing work that PC has completed. This would require a lot of work by Planning Commission members. Martin fears this may end up in his lap.

With the Parks and Recreation, Council has to be careful because of the many funding sources. We can't increase their cost and decrease how much goes into the parks. The park ranger and beach/park patrol could be eliminated, grass could be mowed every other week, and use volunteers to maintain the trail.

Benefits have been changed reducing the City's cost. Retirees' benefits will decrease due to a death and social security would decrease if part time hours are reduced.

Capital outlay has been budgeted for improvements to City Hall, seawall and tennis courts. Cutting these cost for this year only, will save \$45,000.

Lorenz questioned the purchase of a patrol car. Martin stated we did not buy one last year and does not recommend going another year. Weigand asked how many miles are put on the cars. Martin stated it is not the number of miles but they type of use, the cars are always starting, stopping and turning and running at low speeds. The oldest car, the 2005 Impala has approximately 72,000 miles on it. The newest car, 2007 Charger is almost two years old now.

The total savings in expenditures from the items listed would be approximately \$135,940 this year.

Mandatory Retiree Health Care Funding has to be added to the budget, \$35,000 resulting in a net reduction in expenditures of \$100,940 for this year.

With these proposed changes the budget could be balanced.

Council was asked to prioritize this list and submit it to Martin.

Adjournment

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Wiegand, to adjourn the study session.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Dennise Clippert, City Clerk