

**Council Budget Retreat
February 7, 2014
Summary**

I. Welcome/Housekeeping – Linda Gorton

II. Introduction of Molly Davis, Arboretum Director

Davis introduced herself to Council and distributed information about the Arboretum.

III. Leadership – Jason Cummins, UK Athletics

Cummins commented on leadership and building a cohesive team environment.

IV. Council Link Discussion – Chuck Ellinger

Ellinger passed out link assignments, questions and a sample Link report out to the group. Ellinger asked CMs to send any question revisions to Paul/Stacey by February 18th. He also asked that any link issues/chair be sent to Paul by February 20th for inclusion in the February 25th Budget & Finance Committee packet.

Kay suggested that we focus only on budget issues during link discussions rather than focusing on administrative/process issues. He added that there have been instances in the past when link members got sidetracked on issues such as mowing, etc. and lost focus on the budget. Kay suggested the two be separated.

Myers commented on the referral process for items going to committee. In the past, all items have had the Vice Mayor listed next to them and committee members are not always sure what the issue is.

It was suggested that all non-budgetary link items be referred to the full council to vet and decide to refer to a committee afterwards.

Council agreed to have a “debrief” for the full council on all non-budget items.

Stinnett stated that it would be helpful to get copies of the information submitted by the divisions to the Administration during the budget call. Stacey has requested this information previously. She and Paul will meet with CAO Hamilton and Commissioner O’Mara and update them on this meeting and Council requests. They have had several meetings to date in an attempt to improve the process and share information.

Akers suggested that we ask divisions to explain overages as well as areas where budget has not been used.

Myers asked if it would be possible to get copies of budget amendments made throughout the year. This request will be included in the update with the CAO and Finance Commissioner.

Mossotti asked about the Library fee and whether Council has the authority to change it. There was discussion of the fee but Council cannot change it.

Stacey will create a template for links to use for their report outs to council. Link chairs were asked to work with Stacey to set up meeting times to avoid overlap.

V. Budget, Revenue & Debt Trends – Kevin Stinnett

Stinnett walked Council through trend information from the CAFR. He pointed out key changes impacting the fund balance over the years (i.e. recession, division moves, etc.). He also pointed out the creation of the Parking Authority and explained a variance in street resurfacing for the group. Stinnett commented on the increase in the Sanitary Sewer System and the impact of the EPA Consent Decree.

Kay asked for policy information regarding the number of vehicles responding to an accident. He referenced seeing “fender benders” with several responders present.

Lane asked for verification on Fire & EMS calls, does this number include all calls or only those they have to respond to. Gorton stated that it was individual calls.

Stinnett would like to add inmate data to the operating indicators as well as recycling revenue. He would also like to include data for the Economic Contingency fund.

Kay would like to include Code Enforcement data to the operating indicators.

Akers would like the information for Police and Fire to be reported similarly (include # of calls, etc. for police). Akers would also like to see the % change included on the operating indicators as it is on the other data.

Ford stated that Council needed to review the local option tax as a way to pay for some items that have been lingering for some time.

VI. Fund Balance Wrap-Up

Council requested the list of unfunded items from the prior year fund balance discussion to review.

VII. Council Priority Discussion and Ranking

Cannon walked Council through the list of budget requests presented by CAO Hamilton at the budget briefing. This is included as a separate document.

VIII. New Proposed Budget Items

Cannon listed new requests by Council. These were ranked by the group. This list is included as a separate document.