

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: WORK SESSION BUDGET MEETING #1**

**Council Chambers: 6-8:30pm.**

**Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Housh called the meeting to order at 6pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were President Housh and Council members Gavin DeVore Leonard, Carmen Brown and Marianne MacQueen. Also present were Village Manager Josue Salmeron, Planning and Zoning Administrator Denise Swinger, and Public Works Director Johnnie Burns.

Kevin Stokes joined the meeting at 6:18.

**WORK SESSION:**

**FY2023 Budget Framing: Economy; Future Projections; State of Budget.** Salmeron summed up the approach taken for fiscal year 2022, pointing out significant departures in the financial, labor and supply sectors all of which will impact choices for 2023.

Salmeron stated that while the energy portfolio is locked in, sewer and water rates are more labor-driven and are likely to see impacts. He noted that income tax revenue is likely to be affected by a recession.

Salmeron noted that the budget being presented, which is only the General Fund, contains no cuts, since Council had requested to see the budget prior to cuts being made. He noted that two million will need to be cut from the presented budget.

**Major Infrastructure Initiatives: Timelines; Capacity Needs; Mandates.** Burns presented information on the major projects he is budgeting for in 2023 and the coming years, including the unfunded EPA mandate to replace all galvanized water lines in the Village, for which the engineering plan must be delivered by October of 2024.

Burns noted key areas of expenditure, those being street repair and maintenance, sidewalk repair and maintenance, downtown restrooms, and cleanup of the Sutton Farm spoils pile.

MacQueen requested a 5-year proforma for Lawson Place apartments.

Salmeron responded that this would be provided, but noted that the apartments would be self-supporting as they are expected to bring in \$120,000 annually in rents.

Housh asked that the Library contribute to some of the costs for maintaining and upgrading the building, and was told that the lease agreement requires the Village to shoulder these costs.

Housh asked that the lease be reviewed to allow for some degree of responsibility on the part of the Library.

Burns made a case for expanding his staffing, arguing that if the Village is able to find funds to contract out for services—noting that much work was contracted out prior to his tenure—that funds should be found to hire, train and retain workers capable of performing this work on an ongoing basis.

The Clerk asked that Council consider either a sidewalk levy or the return of sidewalk responsibility to property owners, commenting that the onslaught of sidewalk complaints by one citizen is taxing the Planning and Zoning Department to the extent that a Compliance Officer needs to be hired if Council intends to require the Village to respond to this unprecedented number of complaints.

**Council Budget: Events; Commissions; Special Projects.** Housh stated that he would like Council to stop funding events, and asked that Council members carefully consider what funds for Commissions might be able to be funded by outside resources. He added that his goal is that events for 2023 receive only in-kind services from Village government.

Salmeron asked that Council take up consideration of the reciprocal income tax.

Housh asked that a Joint Meeting of School Board, Township Trustees and Council be set up for early December, commenting that he would like to raise this issue with those entities first, as a courtesy.

Burns commented on the in-kind services aspect of events, noting that in his department alone, for Street Fair alone, over \$20,000 in staff time and overtime had been allocated.

**Agenda Planning/Strategy for Budget Meeting #2.** Several Council members commented that it was difficult to have a sense of what to cut and by how much when they were looking only at the General Fund budget.

DeVore Leonard commented that he did not think it was appropriate for him, as a Council member, to direct any of the cuts, and asked that, now that Council has looked at the budget pre-cuts, Salmeron could bring the budget back with cuts made.

Salmeron stated that he had not yet had these discussions with staff, but that he could do so.

The Clerk requested that the meeting set for November 2 be moved to November 9 to allow time for the budget reductions to be made.

Council agreed to move the second budget meeting to November 9, from 5-8pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:28pm, Housh MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN.