### COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: WORK SESSION BUDGET MEETING #3**

**Council Chambers: 2-4pm. Friday, December 9, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Housh called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

 Present were President Housh and Council members Gavin DeVore Leonard, Carmen Brown and Marianne MacQueen. Also present were Village Manager Josue Salmeron, Police Chief Paige Burge, Finance Director Amy Kemper and Public Works Director Johnnie Burns. Kevin Stokes joined the meeting at 2:15pm

**WORK SESSION:**

Salmeron opened the meeting by explaining the priorities placed in the current budget, noting long delayed projects and purchases. The budget reflects operations to a large extent, he stated.

 Salmeron stated that what Council is seeing in the current budget will not change at this point.

 MacQueen asked for reiteration of the comparison in the Public Works budget of adding positions vs. not adding those positions and needing to contract out some projects.

 Burns stated that contract labor for the Electric department to cover projects was over $400,000 in the last year, using this as an example of the efficiency added through the three positions he has requested. The funds for those positions, he said, was taken from the savings he expects to see from a reduction in allocation for contract labor. This represents a total of $185,000 in increase to the budget.

There was general agreement among Council members regarding the value of the added positions.

Burns affirmed that this increase in staffing will bring his team to where he wants it in terms of capacity.

MacQueen stated that she has requested a decrease in expenditure for equipment in Public Safety but has not seen this.

Stokes stated that he was convinced by the information provided during the Public Safety session that Burge had cut to the greatest extent possible.

DeVore Leonard requested justification for a new car, and Burge addressed this initially by sharing that she has completed a full asset assessment within the department.

Burge stated that the car-purchase cycle is set by the constant idling which is necessary to have the computers up when an officer is called out. She advised that while a car could wait, she recommends replacement for 2023.

Regarding other safety equipment, she said, those are non-negotiable due to expiration of those items, including tasers and safety vests.

Brown, MacQueen and DeVore Leonard all stated their desire to engage in conversation around possible reduction in staffing in PD during 2023.

Housh asked for input as to whether the cruiser should or should not remain in the budget.

Stokes commented that it should be remembered that Council is aware of the potential need for a cruiser replacement in 2023 so that if a supplemental is brought mid-year this should not come as a surprise.

There was general agreement among Council that they would like to see the cruiser taken out of the budget with the understanding that they may be presented with a supplemental at some point.

MacQueen requested that the Affordable Housing line be increased to $40,000.

Stokes agreed with this request.

DeVore Leonard stated that “in a perfect world” he would agree, but that his goal is a budget with less deficit and cannot support this increase for that reason.

Brown agreed, commenting that a savings due to removing a cruiser from the budget should not create the assumption that that amount can then be added to another fund.

Housh commented that he has been a long-time supporter of affordable housing, but that the effort to get to a stable budget is a policy change and requires careful stewardship. He added that he does not want to see this in the budget, but that he does want the conversation to continue.

Legal fees were discussed and Salmeron was asked to explore any possibilities for reducing the retainer.

Stokes asked for the increase in planning and zoning fees to come to Council as soon as possible, and there was general agreement with this sentiment.

Housh received confirmation that paid parking is included in the budget.

Kemper confirmed that the cruiser is removed from the budget.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 3:43pm, Housh MOVED and Brown SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The

MOTION PASSED 5-0 on a voice vote.

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Brian Housh, Council President

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Attest: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council