

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**JULY 22, 2014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Danielowski called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Dick Backlund, Raeanne Danielowski, Seth Hansen, and Mike Wallen. Council Member Nick Christenson arrived at 5:26 pm. Also present: Interim City Administrator/Finance Director Jessica Green, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, Police Chief Joel Scharf, Liquor Store Manager Jan Muehlbauer, and City Engineer Bradley DeWolf from Bolton and Menk.

**3. PROPOSED AGENDA**

Council Member Hansen motioned to adopt the proposed Agenda as presented. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, unanimous ayes, agenda adopted.

**4. BUSINESS**

**4A. Preliminary 2015 Budget and Levy Discussion**

Jessica Green reviewed 2015 budget concept numbers and reviewed proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) needs which had been eliminated from the budget for at least the last 8 years. Green explained that the City should be either levying for CIP items or bonding for them. As proposed, the City would be facing a levy increase in excess of 20% if the City decides to levy for CIP purchases.

Staffing levels were discussed with an additional staff person needed for Parks/Streets, and a possible contract employee to help with permit tech duties and code enforcement. Green also noted that a 2% COLA increase is proposed for all non-union staff. Discussion was held on the option of bringing the part-time officer to full-time status and having that position handle more of the code enforcement duties instead of hiring a part-time permit tech. Council also discussed the option of sharing a full-time officer with another community. Council discussed that employees have been suppressed the last few years, and that a 2% COLA increase seems appropriate. Council discussed that home values are increasing which is a good sign of an improved economy.

Staff was asked what CIP items are necessary for purchase in 2015. Joel Scharf indicated that all Police CIP items need to be funded this year. Mike Goebel discussed the importance of replacing a mower and the need to preserve streets that still have life in them. Council directed staff to continue review of CIP needs and to meet with the City's financial consultants to discuss bonding options.

**5. OTHER**

Gina Wolbeck discussed the current Taxi Cab Ordinance and asked for Council direction on if they would like to rescind the current Ordinance due to the lack of licenses issued. Wolbeck noted that Orange Cab has been the only license holder since the Ordinance was enacted in 2008 and at this time, there are no taxi cab companies that have applied for licensing in 2014. Council directed staff to proceed with rescinding the Taxi Cab Ordinance.

**6. ADJOURN**

Council Member Hansen motioned to adjourn at 6:04 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Wallen, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

Gina Wolbeck  
Recorder

08/13/14  
Date Approved By Council