

Earlham City Council
Budget Workshop for FY2023
January 13, 2022

The Finance Committee of Earlham City Council met for a Budget Workshop on Thursday, January 13, 2022. Chairperson Baskin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the following answered roll: Baskin, Mudge, Nelsen. Also present: Mayor Lillie, Clerk Hibbs, and the department heads as listed below.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda, Mudge. Second Nelsen.

Roll: Unanimous. Motion passes.

2. Budget discussion

- a. Library – Justina Meek. Meek explained Library expenses. She explained operating supplies were more the last couple of years because of several one-time purchases. Fence along the alley needs to be replaced due to wind storm. Insurance and Friends of Library will cover the cost.
- b. Fire Dept– Chief Shawn Boyle. Stated he is budgeting for dress uniforms/shirts for the members. Went over his expenses, mentioning vehicle repair is going up due to increase in costs of repairs to diesel vehicles. Looking to future at building new building and asked for directions on to proceed. Stated Fire/Rescue Association will be able to throw in some money. He said the building was built for two trucks and a police car, and they have outgrown it. Will call engineer as to how to proceed. Mayor suggested budgeting \$20,000 for preliminary engineering cost.
- c. Rescue Dept – Captain Blake Boyle. Boyle explained department expenses, remained basically level from previous year. Discussed new radios and pagers, as well as training.
- d. Police Dept – Chief Heimdal. Budgeting more for part-time officers since we actually have the personnel. Added \$11,000 to cover the dispatch fees from Madison County. Budgeted for new in-car and body cameras, as well as an additional street camera. The current car/body cams are 11 years old. He needs them to be able to interface with newer software in other equipment. Discussion on possible second digital speed sign.
- e. Community Building. No one available from Community Building Board to present budget request.
- f. Public Works – PW Supervisor Coffman.
 - i) Parks. Only increase in budget was \$2000 to update the restroom at the City Park. Mayor mentioned we should apply for a grant from Madison County Development for the restrooms.
 - ii) Recreation Park. No increase in overall numbers.
 - iii) Cemetery. Will possibly look at installing post and cable fence.
 - iv) Swimming Pool. Coffman talked about the condition of the pool. It is past its life expectancy. Everyone agreed the pool is important part of community. Mayor mentioned pools loses money. Hibbs stated she and Amsden have discussed giving lifeguards an increase in hourly wage. It is getting harder to get and keep guards when they can go somewhere else for higher wages. Hibbs said she will start to look for grants, including Prairie Meadows. Nelson mentioned the importance of matching funds as well as accessibility for everyone. Mayor said let's start getting some numbers together for the next year possibly budget some funds in FY24.
 - v) Community Beautification. Budgeted \$50,000 for removal of ash trees. Also, would like to budget money for someone to put the Christmas Tree in the City Park instead of in the middle of the street. He said it could also be placed in front of City Hall. Mudge said we could start to put other decorations in the park as well to make it an attraction. Will look into expenses. Could also incorporate business involvement.
 - vi) Gendler Park. Only increase was in grounds maintenance. Discussion on possible uses for Gendler. Mayor mentioned a lot of work has to be done out there first to fix the drainage problem to make anything feasible. Continue to save the revenue until we have funds to accomplish this.

- vii) Road Use Tax. Asphalt projects (50K from RUT and 50K from LOST). Coffman stated Maple and Cherry are to the point he can't do one street without the other because of the way the water runs from 2nd, 3rd & 4th Streets. If he could double the Projects budget to \$200K in this budget that would accomplish completing Maple and Cherry, then overlaying over there will be finished. Hibbs suggested taking more out of LOST since it has more funds than RUT. Mayor asked about Hull Court and who maintains it since half of it is ours and half is county. Coffman will check to see if 28E agreement exist. Coffman asked what council wanted to do about sidewalks regarding finishing the sidewalk project (We pay for corners/ramps, and when people have heir bills assessed to taxes., leaving city to pay upfront expenses.) Mayor/Coffman suggested \$25,000 to start with under Other Maintenance & Repairs.
- viii) Water. Budgeting \$12,000 for valve turner since the person that we hire to do this is retiring. (Budgeted under Mains Maintenance and Hydrants Maintenance.) Coffman stated we need to start looking at replacing old 4" water mains.
- ix) Sewer. Budgeting to replace a couple or blowers. Other expenses level.
- x) Storm Sewer. Budgeting for some small projects. Mayor reminded everyone we are banking revenue from storm sewer fees for larger project in future
- xi) General – Clerk Hibbs. Since it was almost 9:00 p.m., Hibbs asked to wait until the January 20th budget meeting to go over General Fund.

3. Adjourn

Motion by Mudge, second by Nelsen, to adjourn.

Roll: Ayes – Motion passes.

Since there was no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Next budget workshop will be Thursday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Andrew Baskin, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk/Treasurer