

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Leawood, Kansas, met for a Special Call Meeting at City Hall, 4800 Town Center Drive, at 5:45 P.M., on Thursday, June 20, 2002. Mayor Peggy J. Dunn presided.

**Councilmembers present:** Shelby Story, James E. Taylor, Sr., Patrick L. Dunn, Louis Rasmussen, Mike Gill, Jim Rawlings, and Scott E. Gullledge. **Councilmembers absent:** Gary L. Bussing,

**Staff present:**

Scott Lambers, City Administrator  
Patricia A. Bennett, City Attorney  
Diane Binckley, Planning & Development Director  
Jeff Cantrell, Neighborhood Services Administrator  
Chris Claxton, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Cindy Pitts, Human Resources Specialist

Kathy Rogers, Finance Director  
Mark Andrasik, Info. Services Dir.  
Joe Johnson, Public Works Director  
Ben Florance, Fire Chief  
Joey Green, Budget Coordinator  
Deb Harper, Deputy City Clerk

**Citizen members of the Budget & Finance Committee present:**

James Azeltine  
Scott Picker  
Don Roberson

Mayor Dunn welcomed everyone to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round of 2003 budget meetings. Kathy Rogers gave a presentation on different scenarios of the debt schedule that was asked in the previous meetings.

Scott Lambers advised there is money yet to be appropriated for the 2003 budget, and this will be subject to final appropriation by the Governing Body following final adjournment of the 2003 legislature.

Mr. Lambers went on to state that the model calls for 6 budgeted positions. In the future, there will only be 5 positions recommended, leaving one position that would be filled at the Council's discretion.

Councilmember Gill stated he would recommend an increase of 2 in police staffing due to the daily increase in population growth, traffic, and residential and commercial construction, especially in the 135<sup>th</sup> Street area. Additionally, he is concerned with the Fire Department taking delivery of the new Platform Fire Truck later this year, and not having a sufficient amount of firefighters to keep the truck in operation around the clock. Therefore, he recommended an increase of firefighters [possibly 3] to keep this truck in operation on a 24 hour basis and to

possibly reduce somehow the cost of the suggested finance software package in order to support these personnel positions. Mark Andrasik stated the exact projected cost for this software program could not be determined at this time, but hopefully, it will be less than expected and there would be some funds available.

Councilmember Story stated he supported Mr. Gill's recommendation.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated he feels the Police Department needs more manpower, the Parks Maintenance Department needs more personnel and echoes Mr. Gill's recommendation.

Scott advised there is a methodology to accelerate positions in 2003, and not add positions in 2004. If 8 positions are added instead of 6 in 2003, you could not add 6 positions in 2004.

Councilmember Gulledge stated he would be in favor of upgrading the City's services, especially in Police and Fire services, over upgrading technology programs. Kathy Rogers stated she understands the priority of hiring police and fire personnel, however, she feels this software program is a vital program that will enable the finance department to keep up with the financial record keeping demands.

Councilmember Story recommended the City not earmark the \$200,000 [\$100,000 from General Fund and \$100,000 Special Park & Rec] at this time and wait and see what happens. He added the manpower needs to be increased for both the Fire and Police Departments, and feels the cuts need to come from some other source of the budget. Letting public safety staffing issues fall short of what is required now, will create a greater expense in the future just to catch up.

Councilmember Dunn also echoed Mr. Story's recommendation regarding the manpower needs of the Fire and Police Department.

Mr. Lambers suggested the additional firefighters personnel be hired effective July 1, 2003, instead of January 1, 2003. The City would also be in a better position in July to ascertain what kind of State shortfalls would affect the City's budget. He also suggested the Municipal Court revenues be increased from \$1.3 M to \$1.4 M, and program in 2 patrol officers to be hired July 1, 2003. That would give the City \$100,000 additional revenue to offset the \$55,000 expenditure increase. The hiring of these personnel would be contingent upon the \$1.4 M estimate is a good enough estimate to base new hires upon and provides a continual source of revenue for the ongoing expense. Additionally, he recommended no additional general fund expenditures be made at this time so the City can consider the available revenue that would remain in reserves should things not materialize. Also, the \$130,000 storage facility be moved from the general fund as a cushion and place it in the Special Park & Rec fund. The City currently has \$112,000 to be allocated for this. He also suggested the utility vehicle and the salt & sand sprayer be removed from the Special Park & Rec fund. This would basically keep the fund 'whole.'

After further discussion, Mayor Dunn stated it is clear that the consensus of the Council is to increase the staffing levels for both the Police and Fire Department and would endorse Mr. Lambers recommendations.

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Deb Harper, Deputy City Clerk