

A. CALL TO ORDER:

A Regular Meeting of the Troy City Council was held on Monday, August 22, 2022, at City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

B. ROLL CALL:

- a) Mayor Ethan Baker
Edna Abraham
Theresa Brooks
Rebecca A. Chamberlain-Creanga
Ann Erickson Gault
David Hamilton
Ellen Hodorek

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:**D. BUSINESS STATED IN THE SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE:**

D-1 City of Troy Expenditures

City Manager Mark Miller opened the discussion and commented on this series of Special Meetings.

Asst. City Manager Bruner began by explaining that the Survey is now available to residents, and if residents were not in the initial sample, they can still take the survey by using the code "Troy". He presented the topic of Expenditures.

Council Member Abraham questioned if the graph in the presentation regarding governmental expenses is similar to what other cities experienced. Mr. Bruner answered that the Library Millage in 2011, for example, affected the data. Mr. Miller commented that cuts were made, but continued to show reduced expenditures on the graph for years afterward. Mr. Bruner commented that post-recession expenditures will depend on whether cities passed tax increases.

Council Member Hodorek commented that decisions were made to protect the AAA Bond rating, and she questioned how many communities were in the same position. Mr. Miller responded that Oakland County, Bloomfield Township and Birmingham have AAA Bond ratings. Mr. Miller explained that the cuts occurred, and the City spent the Fund Balance that had built up on Capital Improvement projects. Council Member Hodorek asked if the millage cap is still a factor in prioritizing spending. Mr. Miller responded that the City Charter does not dictate the amounts of millages. He said the splits and Headlee rollbacks have been self-imposed by practice. CFO Rob Maleszyk explained that the millage amount for the General Fund is sufficient and any extra is transferred to Capital Fund. Mr. Miller added that they would look at the yearly transfer to the Capital Fund if times got tough.

Council Member Brooks asked how the Fund Balance plays into the expenses. Mr. Bruner responded that the Fund Balance is a “rainy day” fund; however, the City has a policy requiring that it falls between certain percentages of operations. Mr. Bruner said that excess Fund Balance is typically spent on one-time expenses, like capital projects. Mr. Miller said that what is not spent automatically switches over to Fund Balance after June 1st. Council Member Brooks asked if Fund Balance is budgeted. Mr. Maleszyk responded that they look at excess Fund Balance as a part of the annual budget process and provide extra expenditures to draw down the Fund Balance and keep it within the parameters of the policy.

Council Member Brooks asked if the number of employees have dropped overall. Mr. Miller said there was considerable cuts in 2009 and 2010. Mr. Bruner said the employment data is in the statistical section of the Financial Report. Mr. Miller said there was a significant hit to the Police Department and incentives saved a lot of money. He added that the employee numbers have not returned to pre-recession levels. Mr. Bruner commented that department staff has decreased; however, the use of outside contractors has increased.

Council Member Chamberlain-Creanga questioned the impact public safety has on expenditures. Mr. Maleszyk said using a paid firefighter model, like Sterling Heights, would require an additional 3 mills. He said the Police Department being short on police officers adds up to a substantial amount of money each year.

Council Member Hamilton asked about the comparison of other communities to Troy in relation to public safety, recreation culture, legacy costs or debt. Mr. Maleszyk said geographic area has a heavy impact on staffing levels.

Mayor Pro Tem Erickson Gault asked that the PowerPoint presentation be provided on the website. Mr. Bruner responded that it has been posted on the website. Mayor Pro Tem Erickson Gault commented that it would be helpful to have the comparison of the expenditures to the revenues for the years provided. She asked for clarification on the negative trend in some of the categories. Mr. Bruner explained how the trends changed. Mr. Miller explained how eliminating a specific service and cost did not impact the desirability of the community. Mr. Bruner commented that the resident survey will help the City determine satisfaction on level of services. Mayor Pro Tem Erickson Gault said that minimum needs are met, so the question becomes do the residents have adequate quality life in amenities in Troy compared to other communities. Mr. Miller commented that Rochester Hills relies on another entity for recreation services. Mr. Bruner commented that Rochester Hills has a dedicated revenue source for those services.

Mayor Baker commented that he has several questions about costs to repair the Aquatic Center, City Hall, talk about tennis courts, and the facilities assessment. He said that the negative trend in expenditures for public safety does not accurately reflect that City Council has increased the budget for public safety each year and that the trend is because there are several vacancies that need to be filled. Council Member Hamilton also commented that there was a large reduction in legacy costs.

Mayor Baker said there are some topics that should be discussed before the Advance, such as what they want to do with the Aquatic Center. He also said it seems residents complain the most about recreation and services that are lacking. He suggested City Council focus on what can be done there, and he questioned the expectations of City Council and what are the next steps. Mr. Bruner said City Management has information available for discussion in a few

weeks and will provide the comparison of revenues and expenditures. He said the discussion during these meetings covered the baseline financial information before heading into the Advance.

Mr. Miller commented that if City Council has anything that they would like Administration to research to let them know. Mr. Bruner said the survey results in October will help guide the research and provide revenue options for the Advance.

Council Member Hamilton commented that revenues are up to the voters. He said facilities are the biggest need right now and gathering cost information. He also said getting detailed information on public safety and what could be spent with a dedicated revenue source.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Bovensiep and Mr. Trantham when a new facilities study will be needed. Mr. Bovensiep said they will need to re-engaging that process in the next couple of years. He said they are not keeping up with what the plan suggested.

Council Member Hamilton said having another meeting for these discussions and have that information before the Advance. Mr. Miller commented that it is important to look at the 5-year Capital Plan and what will be coming down the road.

Mayor Baker encouraged City Council to forward any question to City Administration in preparation for the September 12th Special Study Meeting.

Council Member Hodorek commented on the good decision and importance of prioritizing Fund Balance money spent on roads.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

F. ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 7:07 PM.



Mayor Ethan Baker



M. Aileen Dickson, MMC, MiPMC II
City Clerk