

Special Council Budget Meeting**August 15, 2023**

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CROWN POINT
Met in a SPECIAL MEETING in the Council Chambers,
Located at 101 N. East Street
On Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Pursuant to and in accordance with the Rules of the Common Council
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566850445>

Mayor Peter D. Land called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Mayor Land asked for a roll call of the Members. The call of the roll was as follows:

Members Present: Chad Jeffries, Council President Dawn Stokes, Andrew Kyres, Laura Sauerman, Carol Drasga, Zack Bryan, and Scott Evorik.

Members Absent: None

Also present were City Attorney David Nicholls, Clerk-Treasurer Dave Benson, and Council Attorney Patrick Schuster.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2024 BUDGET

Mayor Land introduced the 2024 Budget, along with Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions Group.

Greg explained that throughout the state of Indiana, salary increase currently stood at about 3-4%, which he felt comfortable with regarding the 2024 Budget.

Greg stated he had reviewed the budget with Mayor Land in depth, including Miscellaneous Revenues, Wheel Tax, and Cigarette Tax. He stated Mayor Land should be applauded for his dedication in becoming more familiar with the budget.

Mayor Land stated the increase to the General Fund could be greatly attributed to the SAFER Grant and those funds would expire in the coming years. He further stated that without the SAFER Grant funds, the overall budget is fairly conservative.

Mayor Land reviewed all proposed changes to the 2024 Budget, explaining each item at length. Discussion ensued between members of the Council, Mayor Land, Greg Guerrettaz, Council Attorney Patrick Schuster and Clerk-Treasurer Dave Benson.

Clerk-Treasurer Dave Benson stated a lot of revenue had been gained by investments and his office was adamant to take advantage of good percentage rates by locking in CDs.

The Community Crossings Grant was discussed, especially pertaining to the possibility of a change to the funding formula, which could affect the Grant's existence.

Mayor Land explained that a part-time position is anticipated to become available through the Police Department in 2025 to manage Animal Control. He stated money was being allocated to the 2024 Budget to allow Police Chief

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Ryan Patrick to hire once the position is needed. Mayor Land stated he thought this would be a huge success for the City and the region.

Mayor Land stated that the Fire Department and Police Department were collaborating to utilize the funds from the Opioid Settlement. Police Chief Ryan Patrick stated that some of the funds would be allocated to create a course on opioids to be presented by the DARE program throughout the schools. This type of usage of the funds would adhere to the guidelines on how and where the funds could be used. Other ideas were also being discussed, as nothing was set in stone at this time.

An itemized list of Attorney Fees, retainer fees and "extras" were requested by the Council.

Discussion was raised concerning the "extra inspections" line item within the change to the Building Department budget. Building Commissioner Joe Cash explained that with the larger projects occurring throughout the City, such as the hotel, new hospital, and micro-hospital, extra inspections would be anticipated and therefore would increase the budget.

Mayor Land reminded the Council that this was simply the introductory meeting to the 2024 Budget and there was plenty of time to read it over and propose changes.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Carol Drasga made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Member Scott Evorik.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

SUBMITTED:



David B. Benson, IAMC/CMC
Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED:



Peter D. Land, Mayor

Audio available upon request