

Special Council Budget Meeting

August 22, 2022

**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 Monday, August 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Pursuant to and in accordance with the Rules of the Common Council
*HYBRID***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89566850445>

Mayor Peter D. Land called the meeting to order at 6:06 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, Dawn Stokes, Andrew Kyres, Laura Sauerman, Council President Zack Bryan, and Member Scott Evorik.

Members Absent: Carol Drasga

Also present were City Attorney David Nicholls, First Assistant City Attorney Alex Kutanovski, Council Attorney Patrick Schuster, Greg Guerrettaz with FSG, Clerk-Treasurer David Benson, Deputy Clerk Sheri Herma, Deputy Clerk Tammy Conway, Deputy Clerk Julie Heidbreder, and Deputy Clerk Britney Partyka.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023 BUDGET

Mayor Land introduced the 2023 Budget, with Greg Guerrettaz from FSG in attendance.

Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions Group, stated he had been helping the City of Crown Point to establish their budget for a few years.

Greg stated the Mayor had been working hard to sink his teeth into the budget and learn as much as he possibly could about the 2023 Budget.

Greg stated he had been quoted stating that 2023 could be one of the hardest years. Everything is up; electric, groceries, supplies, etc. This is a challenging time to be able to budget supplies, other services, and capital outlays, all across the State of Indiana.

Greg mentioned this had been the best year in his experience considering financial information through the Clerk's Office.

Greg stated his office had been attempting to predict the Growth Quotient for about 60 days. The Non-Farm Payroll rolling 60-month Growth Quotient across the State of Indiana is 5% this year. He said this couldn't have come at a better time.

Lake County's Income Tax information is available and the tax pool will increase by about 10%. The City's portion may be better than that, but it is not based on the taxpayers, it is based on the amount of property taxes levied.

MVH revenue has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Special Council Budget Meeting**August 22, 2022**

Park Revenue is doing well and has now been moved into its own budget outside of the General Fund.

Clerk-Treasurer Dave Benson had mentioned to Greg Guerrettaz he was seeing record interest rates on savings. Greg stated this meant that interest income over 2023 and 2024 would improve.

An excess levy appeal will be seen in the budget documents regarding Smith Farms, Willows, and Mowry Annexations. This is where the City would utilize Annexation Fiscal Plans, and match revenues up with expenses, previously set forth in the approved Fiscal Plans. This would ensure that current citizens would not subsidize the growth.

Mayor Land reviewed all proposed changes to the 2023 Budget, explaining each item as he went. He stated a lot of money was moved around but most of the balances stayed the same.

Mayor Land made mention 4% raises would be implemented for all Full Time Employees, Elected Officials and Monthly Salaried Employees.

Several other changes were stated and reviewed by Mayor Land, including job title changes within the departments of Engineering, Police and Fire.

Member Scott Evorik stated he was happy to see the fund for Crossing Guards had decreased, but thought it was time for the schools to start paying for their own crossing guards.

Mayor Land clarified, stating the schools reimburse the City 70% for all SRO expenses. These payments typically are paid out at the end of each semester.

Council President Zack Bryan raised a question regarding the Holiday Premium Pay for Police and Fire.

Mayor Land stated the City had hired more officers and firefighters, in turn, resulting in more officers and firefighters on shift during holidays. With additional hires comes the need for an increase in the fund for Holiday Premium Pay.

Member Chad Jeffries revisited the amount collected by County. Greg Guerrettaz explained they had previously budgeted high. The revenue and expenses for County Income Taxes had been righted to the size of revenue and expenses and if something came up, additional appropriations could be discussed.

Discussion ensued regarding the Wheel Tax Fund and the maintenance agreement for the Emergency Services Building.

Member Dawn Stokes inquired about the agreement between Lake County's Animal Control program and the City of Crown Point.

Mayor Land explained there was an existing MOU between Crown Point and Lake County Animal Control. When a Crown Point resident brings an animal to Lake County, the City is charged a \$50 fee. The County provides any vaccinations needed, food, shelter, etc. He explained County billed the City quarterly and the fund had never been maxed out.

Member Andrew Kyles stated he felt encouraged by the fund increase for road resurfacing. He stated he would be happy to see all roads rated at a "1" to be resurfaced.

Special Council Budget Meeting

August 22, 2022

Mayor Land mentioned the City had applied for the Community Crossing Matching Grant, which would help with future resurfacing.

Member Laura Sauerman also touched on road resurfacing.

Member Andrew Kyres inquired how many miles were covered this year, to which Chief of Staff Greg Falkowski stated about 14 miles had been covered. The cost of concrete vs. asphalt fluctuates each year, dependent upon the cost of oil and such, which can cause the cost of these projects to vary.

Member Laura Sauerman stated she had also received questions from residents whether there would be a new City Hall in the future.

Greg Guerrettaz wished to state the remaining schedule for the 2023 Budget. Next would be the First Reading of the Budget and Salary Ordinances on September 6, 2022. Following, would be the Public Hearing on the 2023 Budget on October 3, 2022. Greg wished to reiterate that September 22, 2022 is when the Form 3's would have to be submitted. Once the Form 3's are submitted, the Budget can go down, but cannot go up.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Andrew Kyres made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Member Scott Evorik.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

Bette J. Baljak Chief Deputy
 David B. Benson, AMC/CMC
 Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED:

Peter D. Land
 Peter D. Land, Mayor

Audio available upon request