

## **Budget Workshop September 17, 2020**

Mayor Dermody called the 2021 Budget Workshop to order on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Brown, Feikes, Cutler, Vincent, Galloway & West (virtually)  
Absent: Franke

### **2021 Budget Overview :**

- 2021 Budget Challenges
- 2021 Budget Priorities:
  - Public Safety
  - Code Enforcement
  - Infrastructure
- Breakdown by Department
- Future Goals
- Questions

### **Budget Challenges and Assumptions:**

Mayor Dermody reported it is estimated the City will lose and estimated \$3.49M, roughly 22% of our operating budget due to the circuit breaker (tax caps). In addition, there is an anticipated reduction of revenue from the State of approximately \$500,000. The City is anticipating there will be a 10% decrease in property tax revenue in 2020 due to non-payment. The State has advised the City should anticipate a decrease in local income tax for 2021 as well as 2022.

### **2021 Budget Priorities**

Mayor Dermody stated the priorities for 2021 is to improve police officer retention, increase our efforts to clean-up La Porte and continue to boost community pride, and continue infrastructure projects including roads, sidewalks, water/sewer and technology.

### **Police Officer Retention**

The Mayor stated in order to improve the retention of police officers he is recommending there be an increase in pay for the positions of Patrolman, Specialist, Corporal and Sergeant. Due to parity these increases will also be for the Fire Department.

### **Overview of 2021 Budgets**

Mayor Dermody reviewed the proposed changes to the 2021 budgets and highlighted the proposed changes as follows:

- Add to additional Code Enforcement Officers

- Move the Building Inspector from the Code Enforcement budget to the Engineering Budget
- Add an additional lease payment for an additional vehicle for Code Enforcement
- Add salary for an additional Deputy Clerk-Treasurer to train with the current Deputy who will be retiring next year
- Increase in the Fire/Police Pension contributions
- Decrease the local match for TransPorte
- Increase in Workers Compensation premiums
- Add an Administrative Assistant to Fire (job share with Civic Auditorium)
- Job Share the Administrative Assistant from MVH with Police
- Add a Communication Department
- Decrease total salary allocation for TransPorte
- Align salaries in the Park Department with actual budget spent over the past five years
- Reduction in IT Managed Services Contract
- Add budget for Beechwood Lakes

Overall, the Mayor reported the budgets for the General, MVH, MVH Restricted, Park and CEDIT decreased from the 2020 budget.

**Future Goals:**

- **Fiscal Responsibility**
  - Further projected revenue decline for 2022
  - Preparing now for anticipated decline in the future
  - Hitting our priorities while maintaining fiscal responsibility
- **Growing our Community**
  - 2020: Estimated \$3.49M loss due to Circuit Breaker
  - Increase our net assessment
  - Increase all types of housing for LaPorte
    - 30 by 30: 30,000 residents by 2030
    - Continue to raise living standards for all residents
  - Strategically implement business incentives

The Council discussed the proposed budgets for 2021 and the Mayor answered questions.

**Approved:**

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**Thomas P. Dermody , Mayor**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Courtney Parthun , Clerk-Treasurer

**Approved:** October 5, 2020