

**City Council Proceedings
2022 Budget Workshop Session One
Official**

A Budget Work Session of the St. Ignace City Council held on Monday, November 8, 2021, in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Litzner.

Present: Councilmembers Clapperton, Fullerton, LaLonde, Mayor Litzner, Councilmember Pelter and Mayor Pro-Tem St. Louis.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Darcy Long, City Manager (via Zoom); Anthony Brown, Police Chief; Bill Fraser, DPW Director; Nick Montie, Fire Chief; Andrea Insley, City Clerk/Treasurer; Morgan Mills, Recreation Director; Stephanie Baar, Assistant to the City Manager.

A. PENSION LIABILITY – MERS PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM

Terra Langham, MERS Regional Manager, reviewed the 2020 MERS Actuarial Report with Council, which included information regarding the recent Experience Study by MERS.

Ms. Langham summarized the City's current status by explaining the effect of the assumption changes over the past two years, stating that the City is currently 52% funded and projected to be 60% funded by 2025. Ms. Langham also verified that the City's contributions to a Surplus Division are helpful in reaching the 60%-funded goal and satisfying the State of Michigan. The No-Phase-In form of payment that the City follows was also explained by Ms. Langham, indicating that billed charges for the City's divisions are expected to increase in fiscal year 2022.

B. DRAFT BUDGET

City Manager Long discussed the November 5th memo he had submitted to Council covering proposed wastewater revenue increases, parking fine increases, PA33 of 1951 information for Fire and Police services and OPEB expenditures. City Manager Long also informed Council of the projected revenue amounts used in the 2022 draft, derived from the City Assessor's information, as well as proposed American Relief Program Act (ARPA) expenditures.

C. DEPARTMENT HEAD/BOARD PRESENTATIONS

DPW Director, Bill Fraser, informed Council that the City will need an additional plow/dump truck very soon, due to the aging fleet, and requested Council's consideration for either a new or used truck in the 2022 budget. Director Fraser also requested additional road materials, the use of rental equipment and DPW labor for the upcoming budget to be able to maintain a greater number of the local and major streets.

Fire Chief, Nick Montie, also requested Council's consideration for a plan to acquire a new truck in the next 2 years to replace some of the aging trucks currently in the fleet. Chief Montie noted some of the 2022 budget being planned for much needed repairs on existing trucks as well.

Recreation Director, Morgan Mills, reported to Council that Little Bear East Conference Center recently received new AV equipment and that she plans to reach out to local businesses and organizations to offer advertising opportunities more diligently in this next fiscal year. Director Mills also informed Council that reservations have increased and she plans to seek out a grant to assist with field equipment rental to maintain the new ball parks.

Police Chief, Tony Brown, updated Council with a current department activity report, noting that increased Covid numbers are still a factor in the community and daily operations.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor, Connie Litzner

Andrea Insley, City Clerk/Treasurer