

City of Mabton, Washington
City Council
Study Session Minutes
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Call to Order

Mayor Mario Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm

The following were:

Present:

Mayor Mario Martinez and Council members - Arturo Delafuente, Sophia Sotelo, and Vera Zavala

Also Present:

City Administrator Walt Bratton, Carrie Tribble, Finance Director; Chief of Police Cas Cedillo; Fire Chief Luke Cussins

Absent:

Council member Mark Gourneau

Public Hearing

A. **Public Hearing for FY 2016 Budget (discussions):**

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:10 pm regarding the FY 2016 Budget discussions. There was no public comment. The Mayor requested the Fire Chief Luke Cussins present on the Fire Department's FY 2016 budget. Mr. Cussins discussed the need for the Fire Department to go from hourly call out rates to an hourly pay wage and place volunteer firefighters on payroll per the State Auditor's Office (SAO) directive and their findings with the August 2015 audit report on the City of Mabton. It was decided by the City Council to pay the following hourly rates to volunteer firefighters in FY 2016: An \$800.00 stipend upon successful completion of Firefighter recruit school; \$12.00 an hour for Firefighter; \$12.50 an hour for Officer and an additional \$1.00 per hour for EMT certified personnel. Fire Chief Cussins also stated the need to allocated 12K per fiscal year and carry it over if not spent for a reserve account for large expenditures (needs for capital improvements projects in the Fire Department) effective next FY.

The Mayor then called upon Police Chief Cas Cedillo to present his FY 2016 budget for the Police Department. Chief Cedillo spoke about turning five Police Reserves into one Full Time Commissioned Police Officer in a budget request. This would allow the department to have four commissioned law enforcement professionals (i.e. 1 chief, 1 sergeant, and 2 commissioned police officers) on staff as well as allow the city to offer 24/7 coverage for policing. The city council approved of this budget request idea and supported it.

The Mayor then called upon Finance Director Carrie Tribble to give an update on the status of the budget. Ms. Tribble spoke about how cumbersome it was in trying to untangle the Utility billing problem, the difficulty of using VISION software billing system, and trying to correct some internal controls and deficiencies so staff can improve on work outputs pertaining to billing/invoicing of water usage for our consumers. Ms. Tribble stated that the FY 2016 final budget will be available for review and approval at the next city council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2015.

The Mayor discussed the FY 2016 budget and how it will be finalized by Fund and elaborated on the key points. He stated that it would be broken down further during the 1st quarter of FY 2016 and brought back proactively to the City Council for their input. There will be a 150K allocation for capital improvements, necessary purchases, small equipment needs, etc.

The Mayor reminded everyone of the upcoming city council meeting and final adoption and approval of the FY 2016 budget would be on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, with Study Session starting at 6:00 pm and a regular city council meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- City Council Reports
- Council members Sotelo & Hutson elaborated on the Mabton Community Days Senior Citizen dinner and other events upcoming in the community over the next few months.
- Council member DelaFuente had no report
- Council member Gourneau was absent
- Council member Zavala discussed the past Saturday Mabton Community Days Group fundraiser held at the Mabton Learning Center and thanked the School District for their support and allowing the usage of the facility for the betterment of the community.
- Staff Report, City Administrator Walt Bratton had no report

Visitor's Comments:

None

Executive Session:

None

The study session was adjourned by the Mayor at 7:05 pm

Walt Bratton, City Administrator

Mario Martinez, Mayor