

**CHISHOLM CITY COUNCIL  
TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING – DECEMBER 11, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Champa called the hearing to order in the City Hall Council Chambers at 6:05 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Tracy Campbell, April Fountain, Adam Lantz, Travis Vake, and Mayor John Champa

Absent: Councilor Varda

Also Present: Administrator Bill Manney, Deputy Clerk Eileen Zah, City Attorney Bryan Lindsay, Building Official Mandy Galli, Consultant Engineer Jim Johnson, Fire Chief Bob Brown, Library Supervisor Katie Christenson, Police Chief Vern Manner, Public Works Supervisor Larry Folstad, Administrative Assistant Margaret Gornick and Marie Tolonen with the Chisholm Tribune Press

PRESENTATION

Deputy Clerk Eileen Zah gave a presentation on the proposed 2020 budget revenues and expenditures.

CITIZENS FORUM

Council opened the hearing to address concerns from citizens. The following citizens in attendance addressed the Council with concerns:

Mark Casey made the following comments and suggestions:

Having been involved with Government for a while he can understand the constraints the City is under.

The majority of the budget is wages and benefits.

He understands the Police Department is the largest Department for expenditures however, the Police Department is operating 24 hours per day.

The Public Works Department may want to consider (instead of a one-time fee to purchase new plow trucks) a lease to own option. You may pay a little more but you get more of a warranty with the lease to own. It may help the Council, the Administrator & the Deputy Clerk to get a better grasp on the budget since it would be set out for 3 – 5 years.

The City has a healthy Sewer fund. Assuming the Infrastructure Replacement Project for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> St NW between 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW has a portion of that cost offset by sewer and water. There are some options such as the General fund borrowing from the Sewer fund (provided this is done by Resolution just like any other loan). It can be set up with loan payments at 0% for 5, 10 or 20 years. The skid loader, steam machine and bucket truck would all qualify for the loan as they all affect the Sewer fund.

He feels a 20% tax levy increase is a little much.

Cash on hand is healthy. He understands the City has a request from the Legislature for a bonding bill for the new Public Safety Building, the Legislature will take the City's cash situation into consideration when they review the City's request.

Prior to the Truth In Taxation Hearing, he had a conversation with Administrator Manney, Council Member Campbell and Mayor Champa regarding the proposed 20% tax levy increase.

The Council may consider having a rate study done for the Enterprise funds (the Council has already discussed having this done and Administrator Manney has a meeting scheduled next week to meet with municipal advisors from Baker Tilly to discuss this (Springsted performed the last rate study and recently merged with Baker Tilly).

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to adjourn the Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6:36 p.m. by Councilor Campbell and supported by Councilor Fountain.

Voting Aye: All

Motion Carried

/s/ John A. Champa

Mayor

Attest:

/s/ William Manney

City Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator