City of North Saint Paul
September 14, 2021
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Thorsen
Council Member Petersen
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong
Mayor Furlong

Staff: Interim City Manager Brian Frandle, Finance Director Daniel Winek, Fire Chief Jason Mallinger, Police Chief Phil Baebenroth, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos.

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. <u>2022 Budget (amended – adding attachment #3)</u>

Finance Director Dan Winek stated the purpose of this work session is to continue a review of the general budget as well as EDA and HRA budgets, with Department heads in attendance. He added the 2022 departmental budgets will be reviewed including long-range plans and potential requests for additional staff. He noted this is especially significant considering ongoing redevelopment activities in North St. Paul.

Mr. Winek stated the maximum levies will be certified at the City Council's regular meeting on September 21, 2021. He added a Truth in Taxation meeting will be set for December 7, 2021, as well as adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan, 2022 Street and Utilities feasibility study, and authorization of sale of refunding bonds. He noted the final budget document will be posted on OpenGov.org as part of the process of certifying the maximum levy, and the final levy will be approved on December 21, 2021.

Mr. Winek stated the City Council discussed the levy at its previous work session, after which the levy rate was estimated at 5.7%. He added the City Council agreed to add .5% for employees for COLA and remove Council Member Thorsen's pay, on which a Resolution will be required at a future date. He noted the City Manager and Police Chief compensation packages were adjusted, and overtime for the Fire Department was reduced and taxes removed. He noted, with these changes, the levy rate is estimated at 4.7%.

Mr. Winek stated the City Council will be requested to approve a refunding bond at their next regular meeting, which will result in a $55,000 decrease in the debt service levy, reducing the general levy to an estimated 3.7%.

Mr. Winek stated a $25,000 increase was proposed for downtown beautification which, if removed, would result in a .5% reduction. He added there was discussion regarding an increase in pay for the Mayor and City Council; his recommendation would be an increase of $500, bringing the Mayor's pay to $6,900 and $5,700 for Council Members. He noted this represents a total decrease of $2,180, including appropriate payroll taxes.

Mr. Winek stated another item for discussion is the Fire and Code Enforcement part-time wages, for a $18,700 increase in the budget. He added City Staff have requested that a Community Development position be increased from part-time to full-time, for a $30,000 increase in the budget. He noted the Police Chief is seeking to add a Police Sergeant to ensure 24/7 supervision coverage, which would have an $81,000 impact if initiated on June 1, 2022, with an additional $57,000 if initiated on January 1, 2022.

Mr. Winek stated, with the reviewed changes, reductions and additions, the maximum levy on the general fund would be certified at 6.7%.

Mayor Furlong asked whether downtown area beautification should be removed. He added $25,000 was allocated from the TIF district for the downtown area. He asked whether that can be used for beautification. Mr. Winek stated TIF Districts have restrictions on the use of funds, and it is unlikely that beautification would qualify under TIF funding. He added the City will begin to pay off the TIF debt in 2022 with a $92,000 principal interest payment due from the general fund. He noted his recommendation is to have the remaining money in the TIF pay for that debt in 2022, and then in the CIP plan.

Mr. Winek stated TIF funding can only be used in the TIF District, so in this case it would not be possible to use the funding over the entire downtown area. He added $98,000 will be available and an additional $50,000 in the CIP to be approved, for a potential total of $142,000 in 2022 for the downtown beautification.

Mayor Furlong asked whether $25,000 is recommended for removal from the beautification fund.

Council Member Petersen stated we would not want to lose that money.

Mayor Furlong stated that is another discussion.

Council Member Wong asked whether the funding can be used for landscaping in the downtown area.

Mayor Furlong asked whether there is a cost estimate. Public Works Director Ron Ritchie stated the original bid for downtown beautification was approximately $150,000, although he is unsure if that includes labor and installation. He added irrigation would be required, and City Staff are obtaining quotes for installation of irrigation to the planters. He noted he believes $142,000 would work for what is needed.

Mayor Furlong asked whether hanging plants could be added to the lampposts. Mr. Ritchie stated that is a possibility, but they would need irrigation or someone to water them. He added he is unsure whether it is possible to hang plants on the lampposts.

Council Member Wong asked whether outdoor seating would come out of a different fund. Mr. Frandle stated additional discussion is required regarding whether the City should be responsible for funding outdoor seating for downtown businesses, which would also require maintenance and storage.

Mayor Furlong stated local bar owners and the Business Association have discussed this issue. He agreed further discussion is required. He noted this proposed funding would be for plantings, trees and City benches.

Council Member Wong stated this issue could be reviewed at an upcoming City Council work session. She added different models could be considered for collaborating with the Business Association on a plan for outdoor seating, to share the financial obligation with business partners.

Council Member Thorsen stated local businesses would see it as an opportunity to expand their service, and to have something that is decent-looking and durable. He added right now it is all temporary, awaiting City Council review and decision. He noted all financial obligation should be on the part of the businesses, with some standards for outdoor seating.

Council Member Thorsen asked why the planters in the downtown area are filled with mulch, but no plants. He added he gets this question a lot from residents. He noted the proposed project included landscaping. Mr. Ritchie stated the plantings were removed from the project plans early on to save money. He added he was not involved in that decision, and he was told a decision would be made at a later date. He noted mulch was put into the planters before the car show and will need to be removed before any plantings can be added.

Council Member Thorsen stated irrigation was discussed at an additional cost. He added he understands the benefits of irrigation, but it is not necessary to have irrigation to grow plants. He added the type of plants that require irrigation should not be considered in the landscape plan, like hardy perennials that are drought-resistant and can withstand salt.

Council Member Thorsen stated the concrete has already been poured and would need to be removed to install an irrigation system. He added irrigation systems require extensive maintenance and need to be blown out in the fall. He noted he would like to see additional options for landscaping for the City Council to consider. He noted artificial plants could be considered, as they are very realistic, although he does not know what the cost would be and would accomplish the goal of beautification in the downtown area.

Mr. Ritchie stated the plantings on 7th Avenue have an irrigation system. He added a lot of time and effort went into the installation, and the installer provided detailed information on maintenance and watering schedules. He noted installing irrigation in the downtown area will be a lot of extra work, and there has not been any discussion about what kinds of plantings would be done. He noted options can be considered.

Council Member Cole stated the question at hand was the removal of $25,000 from the downtown beautification fund. He added Mr. Ritchie can inform the City Council if he needs additional funding.

Mr. Winek stated an increase in pay of $500 for the Mayor and Council Members is proposed, bringing the Mayor's pay to $6,900 and the Council Members' pay to $5,700. He added he reviewed four local cities with similar size and population to North St. Paul, with salaries of $7,500 for Mayor and $6,750 for Council Members.

Council Member Cole stated he does not believe any of the Council Members are in it for the money. He added there is a 30% gap compared to other cities that will need to be filled. He added he would support smaller steps, but he does not support a $500 increase. Council Member Wong agreed, adding an incremental approach is fine. Council Member Petersen agreed.

Council Member Thorsen stated it is a hard no for him, but it is irrelevant as he is not going to get paid.

Council Member Cole stated whatever is decided will not take place until 2022 and locked in until 2024. Mr. Winek stated City Council approval of the increased rate will put it in this budget. He added this type of increase is not limited to election years.

Mr. Winek stated an increase of $18,700 is proposed for Fire and Code Enforcement part-time wages, for 3 initial duty crew weekend staff, which has been reduced from 12 hours to 8 hours.

Fire Chief Jason Mallinger stated a 2018 study identified issues and concerns related to response to weekend calls by part-time paid on-call staff. He added it has become increasingly difficult to ensure adequate weekend staff for fire and EMS response. He noted, beginning on January 1, 2021, the Fire Department implemented a three-person duty crew in the station on weekends, Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. for response to the majority of calls.

Chief Mallinger stated either he or one of the Assistant Chiefs will be available to respond with the crew. He added he asks firefighters to sign up for the weekend shifts, but it is not mandatory. He noted some staff prefer the on-duty from home program, allowing them to have options while still filling shifts and meeting community expectations.

Chief Mallinger stated on-call weekend staff at the station are given tasks and duties, including truck maintenance, checking locked boxes, and doing pre-plans. He added they are given training to become more proficient as firefighters and EMS staff.

Council Member Thorsen stated, for the benefit of two new Council Members who may not be familiar with history of this program, the Chief is referring to the results of the 2018 public safety study that provided recommendations for filling staffing shortages. Chief Mallinger confirmed this.

Chief Mallinger stated the EMS program originated when Highway 36 was under construction and north/south routes to and from the station were cut off and staff was concerned about providing adequate response to medical calls. He added the Department implemented the EMS duty shift on-call from home, in which staff could check out an official vehicle and be on-call at home, to respond to emergencies. He noted the program continued after the Highway 36 project ended.

Council Member Thorsen asked what the current costs and benefits of the program are. He added the program was implemented many years ago. He added he understands that staff are gaining experience and contacts, and they are often first on the scene. He noted, however, no one will argue that the best delivery of services is a full-time Fire Department.

Chief Mallinger stated he is not moving in the direction of a full-time Fire Department.

Council Member Thorsen stated there was initially a need for the program, and he still believes in it. He added there has been a big change in the EMS world with Lakeville EMS, as they are not 100% guaranteed to serve North St. Paul, and Lakeville EMS' call load has increased by 30%. He noted the Lakeville EMS staff is not always available for calls in North St. Paul.

Chief Mallinger stated the first responders program provides a guarantee that there will always be a basic EMS response within an adequate time frame. He added the program guarantees the best possible outcome as first responders are on the scene doing CPR before EMS arrives at the scene.

Chief Mallinger stated he understands that this is a cost, but he is doing the best job he can by providing residents with the knowledge that there will be someone there when they call 911, and EMS will show up.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the Department is monitoring and evaluating response time. Chief Mallinger stated first responders from home continue to average 4.5-6.5 minutes from the time the call goes out to arrival on the scene. He added it depends upon the location and staff availability.

Council Member Thorsen asked what the standard NFPA response time is. Chief Mallinger stated NFPA has a standard minimum response time of 10 minutes for crew to be on scene.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether there is a separate standard for medical response. Chief Mallinger stated many outlying communities have different response guidelines. He added he is not aware of a different set of standards for medical, but he has never looked into it. He noted it has always been enough for him to know that they are providing a necessary service.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether staff signs up for the EMS duty from home. Chief Mallinger confirmed this, stating it is voluntary for them to sign up. He added there may be only 1 person on the schedule for EMS duty shift from home, but the majority of the time it is 2 people.

Chief Mallinger stated, in response to Council Member Thorsen's statement, he personally feels obligated to respond to the calls, and the Fire Department takes on EMS training to keep first responders up to date with medical training, so their State certifications are continued. He noted the Fire Department works closely with Lakeview EMS for training, and he works diligently to find the best applications and technology for providing better service. He noted new CPR equipment was obtained which adds 30% in life potential, to increase the possibility of bringing life back.

Chief Mallinger stated, when you say obligation, I feel an obligation to the community. He added the Police Department often provides assistance with cardiac arrest calls, and provides scene security as needed, and the two departments work as a team.

Council Member Thorsen requested financial data regarding the actual cost of this program on an annual basis. He added he has asked this question in the past. Chief Mallinger stated three part-time initial duty weekend crew, with 12 hours every weekend, has a total cost of $56,160. He added two EMS duty shift staff on call from home at 5,460 hours for an annual total of $78,405. He added there were 277 calls last year, with turn-out of 10-12 people, for approximately $41,550. He noted two part-time Code Compliance positions at 24 hours per week is $46,500.

Police Chief Phil Baebenroth stated he has been on many calls with Fire staff in his previous work with the County, and he knows how draining it can be on resources. He added the quicker you can get more resources on critical scenes, the great the chances of survival. He noted he firmly supports the Fire Department, as the only statistic that matters is whether you are saving a life.

Mayor Furlong expressed his sympathy for the five that did not make it. He added it is especially hard for the first responders who have to act. He noted he has it personally in his own life, and it's very hard as it takes its toll on the individual responders.

Chief Mallinger stated he appreciates the comments of Mayor Furlong.

Council Member Thorsen stated the question is whether to reinstate part-time weekend hours from 8 hours to 12 hours.

Council Member Cole stated he fully supports both Police and Fire, as they are services that the City needs to provide. He requested clarification regarding how many people are on call at the station and how many are at home.

Chief Mallinger stated, with regard to the 2-person EMS duty crew shift from home, their sole duty is to respond to EMS calls, and there are typically one or two staff on duty. He added the 3-person weekend duty crew responds to the majority of all calls, and additional staff is called in to the station when there is a large event, like a structure fire. He noted, in that case, the crew would respond directly from the station.

Council Member Wong thanked Chief Mallinger for answering the City Council's questions. She added she is okay with increasing part-time wages. She added it would be helpful to have additional data for future consideration, in line with Council Member Thorsen's questions.

Council Member Petersen stated she is a firm believer in public safety, police and fire. She added, on a personal level, her husband was sick recently, and first responders showed up at all times of the nights and weekends. She added the money will be well spent, and residents will be well served.

Council Member Thorsen stated he is not able to answer yes or no on this until he hears from the Police Department. He added he has some questions for them about the police response to medical calls. He added he is concerned that the City is not using discretion in what resources are used to respond to fire calls. He noted the logic should be applied across the board equally.

Council Member Thorsen stated the first responder program initially served a purpose and it is a nice service to offer. He added, however, it does not serve a purpose anymore and it is costly. He noted he hopes his comments are not interpreted as him being anti-Fire Department, or not supportive of public safety. He noted the City Council's role is to ask questions and represent the taxpayers of the community.

Council Member Thorsen stated he would better support funding this program if it provided a benefit to every Fire Department staff member, but the funding only benefits the first responder program. He expressed the importance of understanding the level of medical response. He added it is obvious at this point that the City Council supports funding for this program, but he hopes the City Council can continue to evaluate this program to ensure that it is the right use of resources.

Council Member Wong stated she welcomes Council Member Thorsen's comments and questions, as they are informative, and this is a valuable conversation to have. She stressed the importance of putting more focus on prevention, which is valuable and economically important in the long term.

Mayor Furlong stated there seems to be a consensus of the City Council in favor of $18,720 for the part-time wages for Fire Department Staff.

Mr. Winek stated he is excited about the dialogue that is taking place, as it shows that the residents of North St. Paul have a City Council that cares, looks beneath the surface, and finds better ways of doing things. He added Chief Mallinger has shown great leadership and was able to give excellent responses.

Mr. Frandle stated the Community Development staff have expressed concern regarding workloads and staffing. He added two positions, the Community Development Director and Parks Coordinator, have not been filled, and the duties are being spread out over other staff. He noted it would be appropriate to transfer a part-time staff member to full-time, for a total of $30,000 with full-time benefits.

Council Member Cole stated he fully supports this proposal to move the staff member from part-time to full-time. Council Member Wong staff agreed.

Council Member Petersen stated she is in full agreement with supporting the full-time position, as they work very hard and there is a lot of work to do.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the existing part-time staff will become full-time. Mr. Frandle confirmed this.

Council Member Thorsen stated he is supportive of City Staff's recommendation for a full-time staff in Community Development. Mayor Furlong agreed.

Mr. Winek stated the proposed levy is at 4.1%, which is the total increase over the 2021 levy.

Mr. Winek reviewed a request for a Police Sergeant position, to provide additional 24/7 supervisory support, for a total of $138,000. He added the position could be delayed to June 1, 2022, for a partial impact of $81,000, or approved for January 1, 2022 for the full impact of $138,000.

Police Chief Phil Baebenroth stated he is happy to be here to speak to the City Council to request funding for a Sergeant position in the Police Department. He added the Department has 17 sworn officers, including 3 staff on work-related medical leave; himself; an investigator; 1 SRO at the high school; 3 sergeants and 8 patrol officers. Current staffing is 12-hour shifts with 4 days on, 4 days off for each crew. Patrol officers respond to emergency calls at dangerously low staffing levels, with 2 officers on each shift, with little or no supervision.

Chief Baebenroth stated he has faith in the work and professionalism of the Police Department, and the officers are phenomenal cops. He added the officers need supervisors to be on duty to help them decide how to respond to calls. He noted sergeants are given additional administrative responsibilities, and oversee investigations, while ensuring the safety of the community and assisting patrol officers. He noted it is difficult to have a staffing plan that would require a patrol officer to respond to a domestic call alone, which is not safe for them or the community.

Chief Baebenroth stated the Police Department is asking for an additional sergeant for around the clock coverage. He added he was alarmed during his first few weeks on the job to see the number of times that there was no sergeant on duty to respond to calls and provide guidance and supervision. He noted the immediate solution for increasing safety is to get another supervisor on board at all times. He noted this would return the Police Department to 2018 staffing levels, when 2 additional officers were recommended as part of the 2018 staffing study.

Chief Baebenroth stated another consideration is officer wellness. He added he has met with the Department as a whole, and his message to the officers is to make the department the best possible place to work, and to provide a good work/life balance. He noted proper staffing allows the Department to provide that for its officers, and he would like to hire an additional Sergeant as soon as possible.

Council Member Thorsen stated it has been frustrating as a Council Member to try to follow Police Department staffing levels over the years. He added there has consistently been 18 positions in the budget, with staff starting out as Reserve Officers and eventually moving on to other agencies with greater advancement opportunities. He noted residents care deeply about seeing officers out patrolling, and it is concerning to hear that the Department is understaffed.

Council Member Thorsen stated the priority should be ensuring that the Department is adequately staffed at the patrol level, before adding a supervisory position. He added a sergeant’s position was never eliminated from the budget, and he does not understand why that was never filled. He noted he understands that it may be difficult to fill positions if there is not adequate supervision.

Chief Baebenroth stated he is not sure why there are only 3 sergeants, and he had planned to wait until next year to ask for more officers. He added, with the City’s increase in development and population, there will absolutely be a need for more officers, as calls for service and demands on officers will increase.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the sergeants are actively patrolling, and not administrative positions. Chief Baebenroth confirmed this.

Council Member Thorsen stated there will be protocols as these are union positions. He added the position will need to be posted internally first. Chief Baebenroth agreed, adding he would support an initial internal posting.

Council Member Thorsen stated promoting from within the Department would free up a budgeted position. He reiterated that he would like to see an increase in the number of patrol officers, if the Department is short.

Council Member Thorsen stated he fully supports the sergeant position. He added, with regard to the discussion regarding response times, the Police Department is usually the first responders on the scene, and should receive medical and EMT training, especially when time is of the essence.

He asked whether there is a City or departmental policy regarding police response to medical calls, or if there is some cross over.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether police officers in North St. Paul receive any medical training.

Chief Baebenroth stated he is unsure of the history, but he fully supports emergency medical training for any officers that are hired. He added properly trained officers save lives.

Mayor Furlong agreed, stating medical training offers another level of safety for citizens.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether EMT training requirements for new police officers would make it difficult to hire and retain new officers. Chief Baebenroth stated new officers are generally very eager to engage in any kind of training. He added providing a variety of learning opportunities would be a benefit, and a good way to attract officer candidates.

Council Member Thorsen stated two CSO positions are budgeted, and an additional CSO is being requested. He added he thought at one point there was a recommendation of 3 CSO positions, as they provide complimentary services for the police officers, and can fill that void when there are vacancies. He noted police officers should be trained in EMT, which would cost more money but would provide a higher level of service and reduce the need for additional Fire Department staff.

Council Member Thorsen expressed his thanks and appreciation to both Chief Mallinger and Chief Baebenroth for answering his questions. He stated he hopes they were not interpreted as an attack on public safety. He added the City should take a serious look at why there are issues with recruiting and keeping firefighters, and what solutions might be more effective than the first responder program. He stressed the importance of working together and collaborating to deliver services differently than the traditional model.

Council Member Thorsen stated he supports a new sergeant's position to begin on 1/1/2022.

Council Member Cole stated he supports the additional police sergeant as of 1/1/2022. He asked whether the police staff currently on medical leave will be returning to work. Chief Baebenroth stated he is not sure of the status of those staff members.

Council Member Cole stated he was under the impression that one of the three staff members would not be returning. He added he would support ensuring the Police Department is properly staffed in patrol officers and moving forward with getting positions backfilled.

Council Member Wong asked how much police overtime is allocated to supervisor vs. patrol officer, or some other role. Chief Baebenroth stated a sergeant who takes a day off must be replaced by another sergeant, and patrol officer duties would be filled with patrol officers.

Council Member Wong stated it would be helpful for her to understand the nature of most of the calls. She stressed the importance of working better together to be efficient and effective. She asked whether CSO's go out on calls.

Chief Baebenroth stated CSOs never go out on calls. He added, looking at recent monthly stats, the highest number of calls are DUI's, theft, and medicals, as well as crisis calls, disorderly conduct and traffic offenses. He noted CSOs are a fantastic way to build a candidate pool for future careers with the Police Department. He noted he plans to give them investigation room assignments. He added there have been 3 Sergeants since 2017, and Police Officer numbers as follows: 12 officers from 2017-2019, and 13 officers in 2020, 2021, and the current proposed 2022 budget.

Mayor Furlong asked why 3 sergeants are budgeted when the 4 sergeants are needed. Chief Baebenroth stated the Captain may have covered the day shift, although he is unsure how schedules were done in the past.

Council Member Wong stated she is concerned about going above the Ramsey County average. She added there will be a new City Manager who may have thoughts about what the staffing should look like. She added starting the position in June 2022 would result in a 5.61% levy, which is under the average.

Mr. Winek stated there are currently 3 vacancies for police officers. He asked whether the Police Department could get through to June knowing another FTE would be assigned at that time. Chief Baebenroth confirmed this. He added the Department has been running thin, and this would reduce stress, but adding 3 officers would help. He noted, based on the applicant pool, he does not believe he will be able to hire 3 officers any time soon.

Mayor Furlong stated 6.66% puts the City a little above the Ramsey County average, but many of those cities had a 0% levy last year. Mr. Winek agreed that having a little higher levy is not out of the ordinary for that reason, and the City is getting a lot with this budget. He added this would be the maximum levy, which can still be reduced.

Mr. Winek stated he would recommend having a work session involving the City Council, Fire, Code Enforcement and Police Departments, to consider review issues and provide a better understanding. He expressed his appreciation for the City Council's comments and questions, their investment and the challenge to City Staff to make good decisions. He noted he is impressed with the staff leadership and their responses tonight.

Council Member stated he would like to propose as an idea that City Staff consider other areas that would brin the levy under 4.6%. He added he understands the importance of not using funds like the pandemic fund, but there is a potential for increase next year which gives some room to use that money for one-time expenses this year, to keep the levy down.

Council Member Petersen stated she is on the fence, and the new City Manager might have a different vision. She added she sympathizes with the Police Department. She noted the City Council had a 0% levy last year and vowed not to have a huge levy this year, and it is higher than she wants to go.

There was a general consensus to approve a new Police Sergeant position with a start date of 1/1/2021.

Mayor Furlong stated the City Council would support anything that can be done to reduce the levy. He added, however, the City Council supports what is being presented tonight, with the exclusion of $25,000 for downtown beautification.

Mr. Winek stated the squad computers will be purchased using forfeiture funds. He added there have been some questions related to the handheld radio units in the CIP equipment fund, at $55 per unit under State contract.

Mr. Winek stated the CIP includes 20 handheld units each for the Police and Fire Departments, for a total of 40 units.

Chief Mallinger stated handheld radios provide the ability to stay in communication across departments. He added, as they have aged and become obsolete, they are often used only on trucks or by supervisors, and there are a few different types in use, which makes it difficult to prevent communication errors.

Mayor Furlong asked whether 20 units is the amount that is needed. Chief Mallinger confirmed this, adding that would allow for 3 handheld units on each truck.

Chief Baebenroth stated 20 handhelds would give each police officer a radio, as well as the CSO's.

Council Member Thorsen asked why the cost of the records management system was not spread out over the life of the system, rather than budgeting the whole thing in 2022.

Mr. Winek stated that would happen if this item were included in the CIP. He added this is an immediate need that can be included in the CIP in the future and budgeted annually.

Mayor Furlong asked whether the records management system could be moved to the CIP and budgeted over the span of 7 years, which would free up $162,000, the cost of the system, which could be used for the sergeant's position. He noted this is one example of something else that could be done with the budget.

Mr. Winek stated those items - records management, squad computers and handheld radios – will not have a levy impact. He added he believes 6.7% is a reasonable maximum levy at this point, and it can still be reduced.

Mayor Furlong thanked all the meeting attendees. He added a lot was accomplished tonight, but there is still work to be done.

V. OTHER BUSINESS
There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 8:00 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:
/s/ Brian Frandle, Interim City Manager/ Clerk