



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop Session
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, March 31, 2010**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Mayor Trefethen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Myers, Deputy Mayor Trefethen, Councilor Carrier, Councilor Cheney, Councilor Cruikshank, Councilor Garrison, Councilor Hooper, Councilor Nedelka, Councilor Weston.

Also present: City Manager Joyal, City Attorney Krans, and City Clerk Lavertu.

5. FISCAL YEAR 2010 YEAR-END BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

City Manager Joyal referred to his three handouts that were on the Councilor's desks: an email and two spreadsheets. He said he would be going over the numbers on the spreadsheets that relate to the current fiscal year and the significant revenue shortfall in the budget. He said the department heads have been watching their expenses for the past few months, but the revenues were not coming in as strong as they had anticipated, and adjustments have to be made. He referred to the Analysis of Selected General Fund Revenue spreadsheet, and went over it with the Council.

Mayor Myers started a discussion regarding how the City invests its money conservatively.

City Manager Joyal said the total revenue shortage is about \$850,000.

Deputy Mayor Trefethen started a discussion on the pools, and the logic that people should be using the public recreation instead of the private clubs.

City Manager Joyal said that isn't happening because the City's rates are high and people do still have other options. He said they might consider lowering the rates in hopes of increasing attendance.

Councilor Weston started a discussion on the lack of advertising to promote these recreation activities and how they affect attendance. There were several comments that cutting the expense of the recreation mailings has hurt attendance.

Mayor Myers said this spreadsheet was just referring to projected revenue shortages, and doesn't include the amount of taxpayer dollars needed to make the recreation facility sustainable.

City Manager Joyal went over the second spreadsheet, which showed adjustments the department heads have made, and unanticipated revenues that the City will be receiving to help cover the shortfall. He said the net remaining shortage that needs to be made up is about \$47,000. He referred to the spreadsheet that also provided the Council with additional options for adjustments in the budget. He went over each option and discussed the impact to the citizens of reducing these services.

Mayor Myers said one option he was willing to take was to swap \$35,000 out of the abatement line item and move it specifically to the downtown mounted patrol. He felt the Council would



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need to hear some public comment before dismantling the mounted patrol. He said he would only be willing to drop the shift requirement for the Fire Department down to 11. He said he would not reduce the inspection services, City Hall hours, and the front desk hours at the indoor pool. He said he would consider reducing Saturday hours at the Library, and reducing hours at the Recycling Center. He referred to the list of options, and said he supported cuts to A, B, D, and G.

The Council gave their general consensus to use the Mayor's list for reductions.

6. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Citizens are invited to speak on the subject matter of the Workshop. Statements shall be limited to five minutes.

H. Jerry Lynch, 26B Lincoln Street: He spoke about the department heads adding a 10-20% cushion into their budgets. He said they weren't good managers if they didn't plan ahead for shortfalls. He said he felt this meeting was a prerequisite to the Council's wish to override the tax cap. He said if delinquent taxes were paid it would cover this shortfall, and the City should go after these people. He said the City should revoke Wentworth-Douglass Hospital's tax exemption status.

Mayor Myers, seeing no one else wishing to speak, closed the Citizen's Forum.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Trefethen moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Weston.

The handouts will be archived with the minutes.