

Adopted Minutes Special Council Meeting June 14, 2011

Mayor Slavik called a Special Meeting of the Plymouth City Council to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Medicine Lake Room, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, on June 14, 2011.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Slavik, Councilmembers; Stein, Murdock, Willis, Black, Johnson and Bildsoe.

COUNCIL ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ahrens, Police Chief Goldstein, Administrative Services Director Portner, Community Development Director Juetten, Fire Chief Kline, Recreation Superintendent Evans, Finance Manager Bursheim, Accounting Supervisor Mastey, and Office Support Representative Tiegs-Roussell.

Review 2010/2013 Budget and Council Expectations

Administrative Services Director Portner presented an outline of the 2012/2013 budget projections and trends. Preliminary reports indicate a possible \$600,000 shortfall but with attrition in staff due to retirements, the figure could be lower.

Councilmember Bildsoe asked Police Chief Goldstein for an explanation of the decrease of fines and forfeitures in 2011. Police Chief Goldstein responded there was a lower number of forfeited vehicles due to the intoxilizer lawsuit but with additional traffic personnel on duty, there should be an increase in fines.

Administrative Services Director Portner reported that tax revenues have been level the past two years, but there will be an increase in expenditures needed to maintain services. A decline in infrastructure could be the impact of not having enough revenue to meet expenses. The park replacement fund is challenged with increased improvements and a small revenue source. The organization has been innovative and adjusted staffing and workloads to accommodate the changing economy. Future planning is in place so the City isn't reliant on outside sources of revenue.

City Manager Ahrens stated the Council needs to give direction on the levy amount to staff, while taking into consideration, decreasing property values and the poor economy. A team of key managers reviewed the budget and identified several areas for further review.

Councilmember Johnson asked if the salary, wages, and benefits are factored in the possible \$600,000 shortfall. Administrative Services Director Portner replied yes.

Councilmember Black asked if 2013 will prove to be more difficult due to falling home values. Administrative Services Director Portner replied that the decreasing property values and inflation (higher fuel costs) will be factors for 2013.

Councilmember Black stated the non-represented staff should receive increases.

Councilmember Bildsoe stated represented and non-represented groups need to be looked at. He further added the Council needs to make sure the City's infrastructure remains in good condition.

Councilmember Willis agrees that employee wages need to be addressed. He challenged staff to come back with more decreases to keep \$600,000 deficit smaller.

Councilmember Black agrees that road maintenance is important. She is concerned about staff and service reductions.

Councilmember Johnson stated the City has not levied to the maximum so it is a tool that is available.

Councilmember Murdock stated eventually the City will have to raise taxes to generate needed revenue.

Administrative Services Director Portner stated there will be more information regarding the possible \$600,000 deficit at the next meeting along with scenarios of possible budget figures and impact.

Councilmember Bildsoe spoke about developers continuing to build but there is a fine line to keep attracting people to Plymouth. Plymouth offers a great parks system, fire, and police services but it doesn't want services to deteriorate and lose the advantage over other communities.

Mayor Slavik stated she is not set on zero percent salary increases. The City needs to keep its quality of services. She noted staff is going above and beyond without receiving pay the increases, so consideration needs to be given in that regard.

City Manager Ahrens spoke about performance measurement legislation that was adopted in 2010. A task force met to set up performance measures and incentives for participating. However, participation could be more work and expense and we may not want to take part at his point.

Set Future Study Sessions

Councilmember Bildsoe requested a joint study session for Council and the Plymouth Advisory Committee on Transit (PACT) discuss operation with Council direction. MetroTransit is facing financial challenges moving forward to years 2014-2015. Opportunities for new revenues and

ridership to support the system have been discussed. Councilmember Bildsoe stated PACT must study operational issues and strategic planning. PACT has forwarded a policy for Council approval to advertise on buses. The advertising would bring in revenues. A joint meeting with PACT was scheduled for 6 p.m. on August 9.

By request of Councilmember Bildsoe, a study session is set at 6 p.m. on June 28 to discuss vacant property at the City Center. A staff report is not required but a map of the City Center is needed.

City Manager Update

City Manager Ahrens gave her quarterly update to the Council.

Adjournment

Mayor Slavik adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.


Diane Tiegs-Roussel, Office Support Representative