

## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION OF JUNE 14, 2021

A work session of the Warrensburg City Council was held on June 14, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., starting at the Warrensburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, 407A East Russell Avenue Suite 2, with Mayor Scott Holmberg presiding. Roll was called as follows: Present were: Brooks, Kushner, Lund, Holmberg. Absent: Bentley.

The adoption of the agenda was considered. Lund moved to adopt the agenda. Yes: Brooks, Kushner, Lund, Holmberg. No: none. Absent: Bentley. Bentley arrived after this vote.

Tourism Director Marcy Barnhart hosted the City Council for an update and tour of the Warrensburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (WCVB). She welcomed everyone. The WCVB moved into this location in 2019. The hope was that it would be welcoming, accessible and visible. Barnhart said their three-year lease expires in May of 2022. This location has not panned out as she and the board had originally hoped. Barnhart has two interns this summer, which helps her tremendously. She stated her budget is going well. Lodging tax revenue is looking better than originally planned. In July, the board will revise budget to go along with their strategic plan. Barnhart will be able to apply for many grants totaling over \$200,000. Her focus changed from advertising events to Warrensburg's outdoor facilities during the Covid pandemic. The board did open the deadline for their WCVB grant for non-profits as many were planning around when facilities would open again. The board also opened the grant to 501c6 organizations to apply. The grants allow these non-profits to utilize some money bringing in tourism. Barnhart is hoping to increase this grant amount from \$7,500 to \$12,500 this next budget year. Mayor Scott Homberg asked how the strategic plan for WCVB works along with the City. Barnhart said City staff will be included on drawing up the plan. Mayor Holmberg suggested the plan include how we appoint and recruit for boards and committees.

The work session was then moved to the Municipal Center at 200 South Holden Street.

Interim City Manager Danielle Dulin started the departmental updates and budget discussion. She went over the budget development timeline. Regarding personnel overall, Dulin said the goal is to maintain competitiveness and retain employees. She said the goal is to attain and maintain the 50% percentile according to 2018 salary study. Public Safety is a huge concern and the City may need to increase salaries for public safety at a faster rate than other positions. Chairman Pro Tem Jim Kushner asked where the \$3.7 million figures in. Dulin explained the amended 2021 budget includes half, the remaining must be spent by 2024. She stated the money can only be spent in four areas so it is still under discussion where the City will use that money.

Human Resources (HR) Director Greg McCullough went over the HR budget. He said there will be some upcoming expenses with the search for a City Manager as well as a Fire Chief. He also went over the other line items in his budget.

Community Development (CD) Director Barbara Carroll described the Façade Grants that had been granted over 2020. Census preparations were cut short due to Covid, so she does not anticipate seeing data roll out until this fall. Historic Preservation Commission started their work on the Grover and Broad Street surveying. There is a new aerial photo in Geographic Information System (GIS) so they can compare 2015 to 2020. Jane Heavin, Code Enforcement, has been working on getting dumpster enclosures rebuilt or rehabbed since January. Looking forward, Carroll may ask for a separate docket for court regarding code enforcement. She

stated there are a lot of hours being spent for personnel sitting in court waiting for cases. Carroll said CD will also be exploring the use of foreclosure software which would help in locating and reaching property owners. She also said housing quality and affordability options is going to be explored and studied. Mayor Holmberg was questioning what exactly this will entail. He stated there is a substantial social demographic that needs better rental options. Carroll stated that in October, the City will no longer have Midland hosting GIS, we will host it so it will look a little different on the City's website.

Parks and Recreation Director Danielle Fesler went over upcoming projects that will need to be addressed in the coming years, not necessarily just in FY22. This includes parking lots, ABC Building, Nassif concrete decking, some playgrounds, Community Center digital sign, soccer fields, Lion's Lake, DD trail, and many others. She would like all the playgrounds to be inclusive. Fesler also explained that with minimum wage increasing, her employment costs are increasing. She then highlighted some of the updates and changes that have been done over the past year.

Finance Director Marcella McCoy said her department has received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award in the past. She said they will continue to strive to accomplish this every year. McCoy stated the implementation of software conversion from Incode 9 to Incode 10 is complete. She stated the budget for 2021 was amended for salary increases due to sales tax money higher than originally anticipated. McCoy said the Cares Act money came in and was allocated.

Interim City Manager Danielle Dulin gave an overview of the IT department. The IT department would like to expand the City's fiber network, eventually connecting all buildings. All positions who were determined as able to work from home were assigned a laptop. All conference rooms were also converted to now accommodate Zoom meetings. The IT Department implemented a server backup at Fire Station #2 but has not done a trial run yet. Dulin stated they are researching switching current phone system to Zoom versus Mitel.

Dulin then gave an overview on Public Works. She described projects completed including street overlays and curb and sidewalk program. She gave an update on positions that are available as there were four retirements within the department in the last year. Dulin explained both wastewater treatment plants do need some upgrades so they will be looking at fitting those into the budget. She said in the next year the Public Works Department will be able to use the information from Transmap to decide which streets need the most attention. Dulin also said some of the City owned flower beds need some landscaping, so they are going to research using native plants that require less maintenance. Dulin explained the City has been participating in Evergy's renewable energy program and we are seeing a savings from that. She also said the cemetery needs some attention with asphalt.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Scott Holmberg, Mayor

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Carey West, Deputy City Clerk