

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORK SESSION SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORMAL TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NORMAL CITY HALL, FOURTH FLOOR UPTOWN STATION, 11 UPTOWN CIRCLE, NORMAL, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS – TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

1. START:

The Work Session started at 9:00 am, Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Mayor Koos called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ATTENDANCE:

The following Councilmembers were physically present.

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Koos and Councilmembers Karyn Smith, Chemberly Cummings, Stan Nord, Kathleen Lorenz, Scott Preston, and Kevin McCarthy.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Chris Koos made the following statement:

Due to recent changes in the Open Meetings Act, I feel compelled to make the following statement that the Governor has issued a disaster declaration related to the public health concerns caused by the statewide COVID-19 pandemic.

As mayor, I have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus stemming from an indoor gathering, and that the remote meeting is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the council, staff, and general public.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED 2021 – 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET:

City Manager Pamela Reece introduced Finance Director Andrew Huhn and the Town's proposed FY2021-22 through 2025-26 Operating and Capital Investment budget.

Mr. Huhn reviewed the current and 5-year projected financial position of all funds, including a review of all revenue and expenditure classifications.

Mr. Huhn reviewed the Town's debt position, and the Town's Financial Strategies related to target fund balances and debt levels.

The Normal Public Library Director, Brian Chase, reviewed the Library's operating budget and responded to questions.

Department Heads reviewed department budgets and provided an overview of their department operations, current and future needs, and any changes in their budget or operations.

The Budget Work Session was recessed at 6:18pm, Tuesday, January 26, 2021 and was reconvened at 4:00 pm, Monday February 1, 2021 with a quorum of Council Members present at Roll Call. Council Member Scott Preston joined the meeting at 4:04 pm and Council Member Stan Nord joined the meeting at 4:31 pm.

Remaining Department Heads reviewed department budgets and provided an overview of their department operations, current and future needs, and any changes in their budget or operations.

Council discussion included a majority support of the operating budget as presented. There were additional discussions on infrastructure planning and funding, capital priorities, and the debt restructuring plan. Council also discussed pension funding, staffing expenses, core services, and future budget planning.

Council noted that with the gathering limitations presented by the COVID-19 pandemic they were unable to hold the traditional fall planning session. They indicated a desire to convene a planning session to discuss policy issues, priority setting, and budget goals as soon as it is safe to do so.

The final budget document will be presented to Council in March for review and approval.

5. END OF MEETING:

The Budget Work Session ended at 7:02 pm, Monday, February 1, 2021.