

**Budget Special Meeting**  
**August 24, 2023**

**Present:** Mayor John Williams, Councilmembers Rose Hanser, Wayne Dudley, Jack Rosander and Greg Koczur

**Also Present:** Police Chief Cory Hert, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Richards and Public Works Director Pat Zent

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the preliminary 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget.

City Clerk/Treasurer Richards explained the current figures for the general fund result in a mill levy of 82.2 mills. The maximum mill levy allowed under state law equates to 156.65 mills. The city's taxable value decreased 19% from last year and currently is \$27,009,777.

Originally the excavator requested by the Public Works Department was going to be split between the general, water and sewer funds. It was decided to budget and pay for the excavator out of the general fund only as it is mainly for use at the cemetery.

Councilmember Hanser asked about the Municipal Police Officers Retirement System. Currently the city's police officers are part of the Public Employees Retirement System, the same as all the other city employees. If the city were to put the police officers into MPORS, the city would lose the annual contribution from the state for Fund #2810. The annual contribution is based on the city's taxable. The city receives the equivalent of 1.5 mills, which equates to \$40,500 this year. As the city's taxable valuation decreases so does the state's contribution to this fund. The MPORS program requires a higher contribution level from the city but the officers are able to retire after 20 years of service instead of 30 years with PERS.

It was decided to add a transfer to the budget of \$1,278,000 from the general fund to the Capital Improvement Fund #4000.

Councilmember Dudley moved to finalize the preliminary 2023-2024 budget with the excavator and budget transfer changes as discussed. Councilmember Rosander seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Public Comment: None.

Motion carried with all in favor.

City Council also discussed Mayor Williams' proposed changes to the Animal Control City Code. Councilmember Dudley feels the fines for these types of violations needs increased. Councilmember Hanser agrees. Councilmember Rosander has talked to several other towns in Montana and found that dog/cat licensing is an issue everywhere. He also found that most places he talked to do require dogs be on a leash. Some other regulations he found are not allowing some types of breeds of dogs

and restricting the number of animals a person can have. Councilmembers Koczur and Hanser are not in favor of requiring dogs be on a leash.

It was suggested that the City Council have a work session with the City Judge and City Prosecutor to further discuss this issue.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

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Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

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