



City of Moorhead
Advisory Budget Work Group (ABWG)
Meeting Summary
May 13, 2015 – 4 pm
Moorhead City Hall – Boardroom (1st Floor)

Members Present:

Council Member: Mari Dailey
Council Member: Jim Haney
Council Member: Chuck Hendrickson

Guests: Del Rae Williams, Mayor
Brenda Elmer, Council Member

Staff: Wanda Wagner, Finance Director
Amy Wohlwend, Accountant
Stephanie Maier, Executive Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy Clerk

Quorum of the Moorhead City Council was present and participated in the discussion of matters under consideration by the Advisory Budget Work Group, so this was a special City Council meeting.

1. Future Street Light Utility Rates

- a. Wanda Wagner, Finance Director, provided an overview of the Street Light Utility. She shared two handouts: 2015 Street Light Revenue (estimated, actual, and 2016 projected) and Street Light Utility Research Results. The City is on target with revenue projections as they relate to actual collections. The Street Light Utility billing for commercial and industrial customers is based on square footage of each property with a minimum charge of \$4.00 and a maximum charge of \$40.00. The accounts of who to bill was determined by reviewing the stormwater billing and massaging the list to account for City accounts (exempt) and some parcels that are exempt from stormwater, but should be included on street lights. Wanda shared that she had heard from a few concerned citizens in regards to the charges. Most of the citizens who were paying the residential charge of \$3.00 understood once it was explained it is similar to the charges for forestry and mosquitos. Citizens who are paying \$40.00 would like the rates to be revisited. Wanda indicated there are two ways they could look at the rates: 1) front footage calculation versus square footage, or 2) flat rate for all. The Work Group discussed both and quickly determined the flat rate was the best option for citizens. The flat rate will bring in the revenue needed to meet budget, be fairly assessed to all citizens, and it is the most efficient administratively.

2. Points to the Good of the Order

- a. Michael Redlinger, City Manager, was absent for this meeting due to a conference out of town.
- b. Council Member Mari Dailey will be absent for the June 10 meeting. She requested Council Member Brenda Elmer attend in her place for this meeting; Mayor Del Rae Williams gave consent.

3. Next Meeting

- a. Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 4 pm, Moorhead City Hall – Boardroom (1st Floor)
 - i. Potential topics: Fuel Contract, Budget Projections, Future Budget