

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LADUE  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI  
WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017**

The work session of the City Council of the City of Ladue, St. Louis County, Missouri, was held on Monday, November 20, 2017, at 3:11 p.m., at the City Hall, 9345 Clayton Road. The following members were present:

The Hon. Nancy Spewak, Mayor, presiding.

Members of the Council present:

A. Charles Hiemenz  
Patrick Hensley  
William Brennan

Absent:

John Fox  
John Howell  
Harold Burroughs

Three Council Members present.

Also present were Ms. Laura Rider, City Clerk/Assistant to the Mayor; Mr. Sam Zes, Finance Director; Fire Chief Steven Lynn, Ms. Anne Lamitola, Public Works Director; Mr. Roger Stewart, Building Official and Mr. Jim Schiele, Chairman of the Finance, Revenue and Taxation Committee.

**Items for discussion: Review of the draft 2018 budget**

Finance Director Sam Zes presented a summary of the 2018 budget; the 2017 Estimate shows a deficit of \$635,513.00 and the 2018 Budget shows an operating deficit of \$998,437.00 in the General Fund, noting a \$1,000,000.00 transfer to the Capital Fund for debt service. The City will receive a lump sum one-time payment from MCI of \$657,650.00 for outstanding Right-of-Way (ROW) fees owed to the City by December 31, 2017 and future ROW fees going forward of approximately \$130,000.00 annually.

Council Member Hiemenz asked for an explanation of the Special Revenue Fund and if any actions have been taken to reduce the deficit. Mr. Zes stated the department heads presented their needs to operate the city properly. Mayor Spewak added that the Special Revenue Fund is the Prop P sales tax for Public Safety that was recently passed by the voters. There are other transfers as well from the Road & Bridge Fund and Storm Water Fund that help offset the deficit. The city ran a \$1 million deficit prior to the last property tax increase. The consensus from the Finance Committee was \$11 million in reserves was too much to have on hand to ask for a tax increase, and we should review costs, and reduce reserves

while running the City properly and efficiently. The last property tax increase was in 2002 and was projected to last five years; but with good fiscal management it lasted fifteen years. There will be further discussions by the Finance Committee regarding the potential for requesting a property tax increase.


Discussion ensued regarding ways to reduce the deficit including cutting legal services fees and staffing levels. Ms. Lamitola stated that the mulch program was discontinued in 2017 as a cost saving measure, which in turn reduced the number of employees in the Public Works Department, the 2018 budget includes \$75,000 for a necessary update of the zoning ordinance, which has not been updated since 1977. Mayor Spewak added that the Police Department changed their structure to designate one Lieutenant to work toward accreditation full time.

Council Member Hiemenz asked about the separate budget for the Finance Department; which differs from prior years. Mr. Zes replied that the Finance Department expenses were split from the Administration Department budget; which clarifies the structure and formally defines Finance as its own department with a separate accounting. Administration Department is requesting that the previously approved part-time administrative assistant position be changed to full-time status for 2018. The position is currently vacant but there is a need for a full-time position for the timely completion of meeting minutes.

The Council discussed the loan for Fire House No. 1 and the possibility of refinancing and the storm water projects resulting from the Storm Water Implementation Plan.

**Adjournment:** Council Member Hiemenz moved adjournment, seconded by Council Member Hensley, which motion passed unanimously. The work session adjourned at 3:49 PM.

**APPROVED THIS 18TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2017.**

  
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Nancy Spewak, Mayor

**ATTEST:**  
  
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Laura Rider, City Clerk