

NITRO CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
2011-2012 Budget
MARCH 24, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Rusty Casto called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers. In attendance were Recorder Rita Cox, Councilmen at Large Jim McKay, Dave Casebolt and Bob Fields, Ward 2 Councilman Bill Racer, Ward 3 Councilman Craig Matthews, Ward 4 Councilman Bill Javins, City Treasurer John Young, and City Attorney Richie Robb. Absent was Ward 1 Councilman A. A. "Joe" Savilla.

John Young referred to the proposed budget he gave members of Council. He said it contains \$150,000.00 in the City Hall account that had been in the Contingency Fund. The budget contains a 2% raise to everyone who is not listed on the chart distributed at an earlier meeting. COUNCILMAN MCKAY MOVED THE BUDGET SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL BE MOVED TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RECORDER COX. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION. Mr. Young said the proposed budget contains funding for one new policeman and one new fireman. Councilman Matthews asked if the raise from last year is figured in the proposed budget. Mr. Young said that it is paid as \$500.00 on the year but not on overtime.

Mayor Casto asked why projected property taxes are down from last year. Mr. Young said this is only a projection and these are the numbers supplied to him by Kanawha and Putnam Counties. Councilman Matthews said that Kanawha and Putnam County both sent projected numbers that are down. Mayor Casto suggested Mr. Young check with neighboring cities to see if projected tax revenue is down for the budgets in those cities.

Councilman Matthews said that by adding only one fireman he is concerned that the overtime budget for the Fire Department will put the entire Fire Department budget over by the end of the fiscal year. He said that by adding \$45,000.00 to the fire department budget another fireman (swing man) could be added and save the overtime budget. Casey Mathes said that it will be impossible to keep from paying step up pay to firemen. Councilman Matthews said by adding \$45,000.00 to the budget for another fireman, vacation days would be covered. He said this would mean that vacation would have to be scheduled ahead of time. The more senior employees would pick vacation first. Chief Ernie Hedrick said he did not think that this will work. Chief Hedrick said he would like for Council to consider raising his income to match Chief Jordan's. He said he was retiring in 17 months and his pension amount will be helped by a pay raise. Councilman Matthews said a Kelly person would give firemen an extra day off but they would make the same salary.

John Young said he is projecting a surplus on the current fiscal year of approximately \$100,000.00. Councilman Matthews suggested that three firemen go to a new rank and this would solve some of the problems with step up pay. Mr. Young said the budget contains the changes made by Chief Jack Jordan offering \$16,000.00 out of his budget. Recorder Cox asked who would receive the raise and how would it be distributed. He said the 2% raise will go to the policemen, firemen, parks and recreation employees and the treasurer. The clerical, public works and library employees will follow the chart passed out at the prior meeting bringing pay into a more equitable fashion based on length of time as an employee.

Councilman McKay asked if the Streetscape and Streetscape Master Plan are funded in the 2011-2012 budget. Mr. Young said that they are. Councilman Matthews suggested projected revenue be raised. Richie Robb said that it is his understanding the budget should contain two new firemen, one new policeman and pay raises as indicated. Councilman Casebolt suggested Chief Hedrick work a shift to save his department money and give himself a raise. Chief Hedrick said this would open the city to liability.

Chief Jordan asked John young how much money is in OPED and other accounts. John Young said there is approximately 1.156 million dollars in various accounts.

COUNCILMAN MATTHEWS MOVED THE 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET BE APPROVED WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE FIREMAN AND ONE POLICEMAN AND A 2% PAY RAISE FOR POLICE, FIRE, PARKS AND RECREATION EMPLOYEES AND TREASURER AND THE OTHER EMPLOYEES FOLLOWING THE CHART BRINGING CLERICAL, LIBRARY AND PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES SALARIES IN LINE WITH YEARS WORKED A COPY OF WHICH IS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE BUDGET AND THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN FIELDS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

COUNCILMAN CASEBOLT MOVED COUNCIL MEET AT 10:00 AM IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 WITH RANDY MCDAVID AND MEMBERS OF THE CBA WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN MCKAY. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR THE MOTION.

COUNCILMAN MCKAY MOVED THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED WITH A SECOND BY COUNCILMAN FIELDS. VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

RUSTY CASTO, MAYOR

RITA COX, RECORDER