070711 Budget Hearing

Present: Coffey, Caesar, Price, McLaughlin, Benedetti, Gonder, Messer, Zurschmiede. President Gahan was not present.

Also Present: Shane Gibson, Kay Garry and Chief Todd Bailey

Mr. Gibson explained that the budget that has been submitted are basically the same as last year. The only difference will be with the increase in PERF by 2% per the State and the 1% longevity for Police and Fire.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the longevity.

Chief Todd Bailey addressed the council and discussed strategies he is using to reduce the costs in the police department.

Mr. Gibson reviewed the proposed budget for the police department with the council.

Mr. Coffey applauded Chief Bailey for parking the police cars that officers who live outside of the county drive, but he believes he needs to go a step further and park all cars of officers outside of the city.

Chief Bailey stated that he is still reviewing the program.

Mrs. Benedetti asked about the insurance.

Mr. Gibson stated that they have gone to arbitration over this issue with the police and fire unions, but he will not know the outcome for about a month.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the HSA and how much it has, and could, save the city.

Mr. McLaughlin asked if the council could hire someone to do a salary analysis and perhaps create a two tier system.

Mr. Caesar asked for a breakdown of the telephone services.

Mrs. Garry stated that she would get that for me.

Mr. Gibson reviewed the Mayor, City Attorney and Controller 2012 budgets.