

**CITY OF BAYPORT
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 7, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Hanson at 4:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Michele Hanson and Councilmembers John Dahl, Katie Hill, Ethan Gilmore, and Connie Carlson

Staff present: City Administrator Matt Kline, Accounting Specialist Mary Goulette, Police Sergeant Jay Jackson, and City Attorney Christina Benson

DISCUSS THE PRELIMINARY 2024 CITY BUDGET

Administrator Kline provided a high-level overview of the proposed revenue and expenditures anticipated for 2024. It was noted that fuel, electricity, insurance, and supplies are forecasted to account for the most significant increase in expenditures due to inflation and added liability and workers compensation claims in recent years. Wage increases, library expenses, and allocations toward capital improvements were also reviewed. As proposed, the 2024 preliminary budget includes an increase of 8.93% for the general fund, with a levy increase of 10.3%. Discussion followed on park capital improvements, specifically the need to prioritize facility repairs or upgrades at Perro Park. Administrator Kline noted that staff will continue to update the budget over the coming weeks based on projections provided by Washington County. He noted that the remaining new homes in the last phase of Inspiration will help offset the proposed budget and levy increase. The city could also consider decreasing capital fund allocations next year, if needed. Discussion on the preliminary 2024 budget will resume at the September 11 City Council workshop.

DISCUSS SURVEY WORK FOR A STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON 4TH AVE. N.

Administrator Kline summarized a street reconstruction project that is proposed for 4th Ave. N. from Maine St. to the St. Croix River boat launch next year. The street is located between the Andersen Corporation administrative offices and their parking lot and received a low rating during a recent street evaluation. He noted Andersen Corporation is supportive of completing the project, as the current street condition, crowning, and potholes create difficulties for employees and vehicles coming to and from the administrative offices and parking area. SEH has provided a cost estimate for the initial engineering work and proposed construction work, which includes surveying, plans and specifications, and a feasibility report, which will be considered at the regular meeting following the workshop. The project would be cost shared with Andersen Corporation per the city's assessment policy. The consensus of the City Council was to proceed with the project.

DISCUSS REGULATION OF CANNABIS RELATED USES

City Attorney Benson summarized various draft ordinance amendments to regulate cannabis related uses. She provided clarification on "public use" which would allow cannabis and hemp Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) infused beverages to be consumed in designated city park areas, similar to the existing regulation for alcoholic beverages, but smoking of cannabis and hemp products would be prohibited. Discussion followed on the city's proposed licensing procedures and outreach efforts to existing liquor license establishments to discuss interest and regulation on the sale of cannabinoid products. It was noted that discussion on this topic would be continued at the regular meeting following the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Dahl and seconded by Councilmember Hill to adjourn the workshop at 5:51 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.