

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING – WORK SESSION  
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

September 18, 2023

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Megan Workman, Council Members: Kathy Galliger, Jason Henke, Julie Miller, Chris Dotzler

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Jen Thompson, Liquor Store Manager Sam Keil, Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Stan Gustafson, and Tami Jacobs

**1. 2024 Preliminary Draft Budget Discussion**

The Council was presented the 2024 Preliminary Draft Budget (Version 2023.09.14/2:41). Liquor Store Manager Sam Keil went through the 2024 budget for the Aitkin Municipal Liquor Store (Fund 609). She also discussed the need for rehab of the entire parking lot and bathroom remodel. Both projects are a need for the city off-sale business and the space that is leased to the Riverside Pub. The Council has already approved the hiring of an architect to help with the design plan for the bathrooms. City Clerk Jen Thompson told the Council that they may want to consider a feasibility study to determine the best long-term plan for the entire building. A finance plan for these projects is needed.


Street Supervisor Lon Nicko discussed his proposed preliminary budget for the Street Department (Fund 102 & Fund 402). Nicko explained that he feels these numbers are as tight as they can be. Julie Miller asked if any future street overlay or reconstruction projects are included in this budget. Nicko stated no, this budget includes basic maintenance only. Miller also asked what the status of the draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is. Nicko said that the public works has discussed the CIP plan and the future projects on it but does not believe the plan has been adopted by the council at this point. Kathy Galliger stated that Bunker Hill Drive was a priority but due to the hospital construction project increasing heavy truck traffic the public works committee feels as though this project should be put on hold.

A pending USDA grant application for the Police Department roof repair has recently been awarded. Mayor Workman told the Council that the city was awarded \$50,000. She asked if this would help decrease the levy. City Clerk Jen Thompson explained that the roof repair was not a budgeted expense, the cost for this portion of the roof was approximately \$94,000 that came from the cash reserves and this \$50,000 is only replacing unbudgeted funds that were expended and will not help decrease the 2024 levy.

**2. Adjournment**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler, and approved with all in favor.

  
X \_\_\_\_\_  
Megan Workman  
Mayor

  
X \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Skrbich  
City Administrator