

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Angola, Indiana was called to order at 4:30 p.m. at 210 North Public Square with Mayor Richard M. Hickman presiding. Councilmembers Gary L. Crum, David A. Olson, Kathleen G. Armstrong, David B. Martin, Joseph M. Hysong were present. No Councilmember was absent. Clerk-Treasurer Debra A. Twitchell recorded the minutes.

Present were Chief of Police Stu Hamblen, City Attorney Kim Shoup, Human Resource Administrator Sue Essman, Systems Administrator Nathan Armstrong, Street Commissioner Doug Anderson, Economic Development and Planning Director Vivian Likes, Wastewater Superintendent Craig Williams, Park Superintendent Matt Hanna, Water Superintendent Tom Selman, Fire Captain Bill Harter, Fire Captain Jason Meek, Fire Captain Pete Decker, Fire Chief Mike Meek, Building Commissioner Scott Lehman, City Engineer Bill Boyer, and Deputy Clerk Tammy Onofrietti.

Also present were Ashlee Hoos of *The Herald Republican* and Colin Meadowcroft with WLKI.

Mayor Hickman announced the meeting is a review of the 2018 proposed budget.

Clerk-Treasurer Twitchell presented a worksheet outlining a levy and tax rate comparison by year. The City received the certified net assessed valuation (AV) in August. The pay 2018 AV of 403,959,520 dropped 3.3% from pay 2017 which continues the seesaw trend that began in 2008. The drop for pay 2018 is due to \$20 million less in business personal property assessment. Some of that loss was made up with real property growth. Regardless, if the Council chooses to adopt a budget at the maximum tax levy, the tax rate will increase almost nine cents.

Mayor Hickman then began the proposed 2018 budget review department by department.

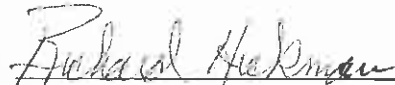
Lengthy discussion was had regarding how the City provides fire protection services to townships. The City currently contracts with Jackson, Pleasant, Scott and York Townships and subcontracts with the Town of Fremont for Jamestown Township. Total revenues are about \$500,000 per year. Councilmember Martin stated the City has subsidized township fire protection for years which is not fair to City taxpayers. Pleasant Township plans to establish a volunteer fire department and staff with two full-time firefighters. The potential funding loss to the City, if Pleasant Township chooses not to renew their fire protection agreement for 2018, is about \$425,000. The City's AV is about \$400 million and Pleasant Township AV about \$600 million but Pleasant Township only supports 25% of the annual Fire Department budget. In addition, Township funding only supports Fire Department operations and maintenance. City taxpayers bear the cost of vehicle replacements. Discussion followed. Mayor Hickman pointed out the response time for a volunteer fire department versus Angola's will significantly increase. Discussion followed. Possible offsets to the potential funding

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shortfall were discussed. If Council chose to have the cost of public hydrant rental currently paid by the General Fund converted to a user fee, the increase to utility users would be about 25%. More discussion followed. No action was taken by Council on this matter.

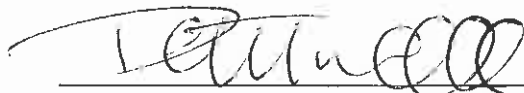
In conclusion, there were no changes to the proposed 2018 budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was considered adjourned at 5:46 p.m.



Richard M. Hickman, Mayor
Presiding Officer

Attest:



Debra A. Twitchell, Clerk-Treasurer