

The Claremont City Council held a meeting on Monday, December 22, 2008, in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Assistant Mayor Austin at 5:30 p.m.

Members of the Council present were:

At-Large Councilor Thomas (Toby) Batchelder, III
At-Large Councilor Robert Picard
At-Large Councilor Keith Raymond
Assistant Mayor Andrew Austin
Mayor Deborah Cutts (arrived at 5:33 pm)
Ward II Councilor Paul LaCasse
Ward I Councilor Christopher Lewis
Ward III Councilor Jeffrey Goff (arrived at 5:33 pm)

Also present were:

Guy Santagate, City Manager
Jane Taylor, City Solicitor

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Director Mary Walter gave an overview of all three budget requests on the agenda, explaining that this was a level funded budget in 2008 and we knew we would be close. We were hit especially hard by the increase in fuel and gasoline/diesel prices even though the gasoline prices are down right now. The ice storm last week and the 2 storms in the last two days have made the streets and roads budget too close to the bottom line, especially knowing we may still have more storms in the forecast. Ms. Walter also requested that the cemetery budget request be reduced from \$15,000 to \$5,000 and that, although she believes the Park budget will be close, they were also hit hard by increases in fuel & utilities.

Resolution 2008-26 Overspend Public Works Streets & Roads Budget by up to \$100,000 – Public Hearing

Mr. Goff asked Mr. Temple if the \$100K would be enough since this emergency notice went out before the other two storms had hit. Mr. Temple explained that we had hopefully figured in enough to go through the year and he believed that we would be okay. Mr. LaCasse asked if we have enough salt because the roads seem slick. Mr. Temple said that they do have salt and explained that temperature makes the difference on what application is put on the road. When the temperature drops below 20 degrees we need to go to sand or a sand/salt mixture. Mr. Austin asked if we've had to deal with a lot of trees down and Mr. Temple said we took care of brush that was in the road but nothing with wires around it. Mr. LaCasse asked if this resolution will affect next years paving program and Mr. Temple said it would not.

Ms. Cutts opened the floor to a public hearing.

Mr. Bernie Folta, Ward 3, asked if this is approved, would it carry over into 2009. Ms. Walter said no, it only allows them to overspend their 2008 department budget.

Mr. Larry Converse asked where the money is coming from, the general fund or fund balance. Ms. Walter explained that it comes from all the departments' 2008 budget; the total in the bottom line.

Ms. Cutts stated that she believed the only department that they did not need to approve over-expenditures for is the welfare budget. Mr. Santagate further explained that we have come to council previously and that it's not unusual when you have a tight budget. He further stated that we would not be overspending the bottom line approved by Council for 2008.

Ms. Cutts closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Andrew Austin and seconded by Keith Raymond to adopt Resolution 2008-26 Overspend Public Works Streets & Roads Budget by up to \$100,000.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0

Resolution 2008-27 Overspend Public Works Cemetery Budget by up to \$15,000 – Public Hearing

A motion was made by Thomas Batchelder and seconded by Jeffrey Goff to adopt Resolution 2008-27 Overspend Public Works Cemetery Budget by up to \$5,000.

Ms. Cutts opened the floor to a public hearing.

There was no public discussion.

Ms. Cutts closed the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0

Resolution 2008-28 Overspend Parks Department Budget by up to \$5,000 – Public Hearing

A motion was made by Thomas Batchelder and seconded by Christopher Lewis to adopt Resolution 2008-28 Overspend Parks Department Budget by up to \$5,000.

Ms. Cutts opened the floor to a public hearing.

There was no public discussion.

Ms. Cutts closed the public hearing.

Roll Call Vote: Motion carried 8-0

CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:50 p.m., a motion was made by Paul LaCasse and seconded by Keith Raymond to adjourn.

Motion carried 8-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Walter
Acting Clerk to the Council