

# **CITY OF BLOOMFIELD**

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES**

### **May 30, 2018**

The Budget Workshop was held at 915 N. First Street, Bloomfield, NM. The meeting was in full conformity with the laws and rules of the Municipality.

In attendance were Mayor Cynthia Atencio, Councilors Curtis Lynch, Matt Pennington, Sue Finch, Ken Hare, and City Manager George Duncan.

Also present was Deputy City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. Department Heads present were Finance Director Brad Ellsworth, Fire Chief John Mohler, Police Chief Randy Foster, Jason Thomas and Donna Clifton.

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Atencio.

The only item on the agenda was a discussion and possible action to approve the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2019

Mayor Atencio stated the Council has two priorities for this budget – to give all employees who took a 3.46 percent pay cut in 2016 and have not received a pay increase of any kind since then, that pay cut back; and to set aside money to pay on the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) judgement against the City of Bloomfield, which requires the city to pay \$700,000 by 2021. That lawsuit resulted in the allegations by two Bloomfield residents that a Ten Commandments monument, which was located outside of City Hall, violated their First Amendment rights.

Speaking to the Mayor and Council about the needs for their departments were Jason Thomas, City Engineer and Public Works Director, Fire Chief John Mohler, Police Chief Randy Foster and Donna Clifton, Human Resources Director. Finance Director Brad Ellsworth stated that if the Council approved all of the requests from department heads, the city would have a net loss in the general fund of about \$310,000.

Mr. Ellsworth also said that the city is required to have about \$479,000 in reserves in its general fund, and projected that the city will end Fiscal Year 2017 with about \$450,000 on hand.

Highlights from the department heads list included:

- Two additional employees for the Fire Department – Chief John Mohler
- A 5 percent pay increase to police officers, with an increase in pay for entry-level officers at \$24 an hour – Chief Randy Foster
- The replacement of the wastewater treatment plant and rehabilitation/replacement of a drinking water storage shed, the relocation of utilities along the East Blanco Bridge (the city received a \$300,000 grant with a

\$100,000 city match to pay for the relocation – Public Works Director Jason Thomas

With Gross Receipts Taxes (GRT) increasing slightly, Mr. Ellsworth said the increase in GRT funding ended FY 2018 with a small overage.

The Council said they will look at the requests from each department with the possibility of a reallocation of some assets, discovering new revenue sources and the need to continue to cut expenses.

The council approved the preliminary budget as presented by Finance Director Brad Ellsworth, with the understanding that changes may be made to that budget before it must be submitted to the state by July 31, 2018.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Cynthia Atencio called for adjournment at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor.

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*Mayor Cynthia Atencio*

ATTEST:

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*Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk*