A special work session of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FY2016 Budget.

Roll Call

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Bobby Hopewell
Vice Mayor Don Cooney
David Anderson
Erin Knott
Shannon Sykes
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Matt Milcarek

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Urban, seconded by Commissioner Sykes, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Milcarek. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Communications

An opportunity was given for general communications, but none were offered.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Public Safety

Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley delivered a presentation on the FY2016 proposed budget for the Public Safety Department. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Chief Hadley stated “Group Violence Intervention” was the David Kennedy program.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Chief Hadley stated it was hard to make simple correlations with calls-for-service data over time. Chief Hadley indicated activity in high calls-for-service areas, such as the Northside and Edison Neighborhoods, had not really changed over 30 years. Chief Hadley reported minimum staffing levels had not changed much with personnel reductions, as the detective and community policing units took the brunt of the reductions. Chief Hadley stated further staff reductions would not be good.

In response to questions from Commissioner Urban, Chief Hadley stated he could give statistics for every type of crime, but the important questions were, “What kind of Public Safety Department should we have?” and “What kind of services should Public Safety provide or not provide?” Chief Hadley explained officers needed to have the time and capacity to do proactive work, the impact of which was not always captured by statistics. Chief Hadley stated he and the City Manager had been talking about creating a Public Information Officer position.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Chief Hadley reported that Public Safety had seized over 200 guns in 2015, and based on his impressions from listening to officers, there were more guns and gun play in the community than in the past.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Public Safety (cont'd)

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Chief Hadley reported the following officers were subsidized by outside funding sources: 20 officers were fully funded by COPS grants; Kalamazoo Public Schools Resource Officers were 75% funded by the schools; an Education for Employment Officer was funded for 9 months by KRESA; Kalamazoo Transportation Center officers were partial funded by Metro Transit; two officers were fully funded by Bronson Hospital.

Chief Hadley stated he and the Assistant Chiefs had been having a free-flowing discussion about splitting police and fire service into separate departments. Chief Hadley explained one of biggest drawbacks to doing this would be a reduced capacity to do community engagement and other proactive policing activities. Chief Hadley also stated the cost for police and fire service would increase, as the City would need to re-staff a fire department and then back-fill on the police side.

Mayor Hopewell noted the cost of readiness would go up with separate police and fire departments. Mayor Hopewell requested a report on retirements in ten-year increments starting in 2011.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Chief Hadley stated officers had been handling changes in the department pretty well, even though it had not been easy. Chief Hadley indicated the racial profiling study had been difficult, although recent events involving police/community relations nationwide had illustrated the benefit of being proactive in this area. Chief Hadley stated officers had a great work ethic, and the department was taking the lead with training and addressing tough issues in the law enforcement profession.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Chief Hadley stated the charter amendment making marijuana possession violations the lowest law enforcement priority had not really changed how Public Safety enforced the law, as the department did not target marijuana use prior to the charter amendment. Chief Hadley noted there had been an internal process change regarding marijuana testing that had saved officers a lot of time.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Public Services

Public Services Department Director Sue Foune delivered a presentation on the FY2016 proposed budget for the Public Services Department. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting. Director Foune also distributed a document entitled *Public Services 2016 Departmental Budget Information*.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Foune reported there had recently been a meeting to talk with the townships about 20-year Capital Improvement Program. Director Foune indicated the meeting was positive.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Director Foune indicated the City would be receiving a significant increase in funding from the state and federal governments in 2016.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Public Services (cont'd)

Public Services Administrative Support Manager Wendy Burlingham reviewed costs associated with a switch from monthly to bi-monthly bulk trash pick-up. Discussion followed.

In response to questions from Commissioners, Ms. Burlingham clarified that the 12-month cost for monthly bulk trash pick-up would be $336,000, and the 12-month cost for bi-monthly pick-up would be $202,000.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Ms. Burlingham stated a solid waste millage of 1.8 mills would stop the drain on the Solid Waste Fund, but it would not build up the fund balance.

Commissioner Urban noted the City needed to let people know the millage increase would not build up the fund balance.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell Director Foune stated Public Services employees were doing well. Director Foune indicated employees were concerned about the Blue Ribbon Revenue Panel's recommendation to regionalize the water and wastewater system. Director Foune stated the City's employees were well trained, but City wages were considerably lower than other municipalities, which resulted in workers leaving for jobs in other systems after they had been trained and certified. Director Foune stated pay increases and more employee recognition would help morale.

Commissioner Anderson suggested a salary survey be done as a part of the utility rate study.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Foune indicated the utility rate recommendations would probably be presented in February, with a proposed increase in wastewater rates and no increase in water rates.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Director Foune stated there was no surplus in the Water Fund and some reserves in the Wastewater Fund.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Community Planning and Development

Community Planning and Development Director Laura Lam delivered a presentation on the FY2016 proposed budget for the Community Planning and Development. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Director Lam stated the proposed improvements to the rental registration process were developed as a result of feedback gleaned through listening sessions on other issues.

Mayor Hopewell urged departments to create easy-to-use portals for citizen feedback and to conduct after action reviews for significant projects.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Lam stated staff had given some though to expanding the abandoned residential structure program to include commercial buildings. Director

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Community Planning and Development (cont'd)

Lam stated there was no standing budget line item for demolitions, and she explained grants for demolitions of private property were challenging because of need to conduct due diligence and ensure due process. Director Lam stated local governments did not have the legal resources to pursue private property demolitions.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Director Lam reported her department had six fewer positions than in 2008, and its budget was shrinking.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cooney, Building Official Robert McNutt stated there were 28 residential structures he would consider the worst of the worst, and this number did not include commercial structures.

The meeting recessed at 7:42 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director Sean Fletcher delivered a presentation on the FY2016 proposed budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

Director Fletcher presented a financial snapshot of Kik Pool operations as well as data on usage of the pool. Director Fletcher stated many local governments were replacing pools with splash pads/spray parks, and he presented comparative data between the two. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Cooney remarked on the importance of Kik Pool to the community.

Mayor Hopewell requested the following information: the demographics of swimmers at Kik; the number of people involved in swim lessons at Kik; and the feasibility of having a splash pad at the pool. Mayor Hopewell suggested, as another option, a fountain like the one at Silver Beach in St. Joseph. Mayor Hopewell questioned how the City could change the dynamics to best impact recreational opportunities and continue the important task of teaching kids to swim. Mayor Hopewell noted Kik Pool had always been an item of discussion relative to the budget.

Commissioner Sykes stated that having a splash pad at the pool would be great for parents with children of multiple ages.

Director Fletcher stated he hated to lose a facility, but he wanted CC to be aware of the numbers for Kik Pool. Director Fletcher indicated the revenue estimates for a splash pad were based on the current charges for the pool, and he noted pools always required a subsidy. Director Fletcher stated having multiple splash pads was an option as long as the funds were there to support them.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Economic Development

Economic Development Director Jerome Kisscorni delivered a presentation on the FY2016 proposed budget for the Economic Development Department. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – Economic Development (cont'd)

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Kisscorni stated the City had only one Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), and when it dissolved the Economic Development Corporation would lose $81,000 in annual revenue.

In response to a question from Commissioner Urban, Director Kisscorni explained the sequence for disbursement of captured dollars from economic development projects.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, Director Kisscorni indicated full tax roll participation was as far out as 15 years for projects that received incentives from the City. Director Kisscorni stated a review of the City's economic development strategy and incentives tool box would start in 2016, but he did not know if it would be completed in 2016.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Kisscorni stated he was not sure whether the roundabout project would benefit from MDOT funding, as this project was not on a state trunkline.

In response to Commissioner Sykes, Director Kisscorni explained the roundabout would replace a low performing intersection, and this work was part of the incentive for development projects in that area. Director Kisscorni noted that when the project was complete the City could put in place a special assessment to put dollars back into the Brownfield fund.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – City Clerk's Office

City Clerk Borling delivered a presentation on the FY2016 proposed budget for the City Clerk's Office. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Mayor Hopewell, City Clerk Borling reported Governor Rick Snyder had recently signed into law PA 269 of 2015, which prohibited local officials from expending public funds to send out mass communications that referred to a local ballot question within 60 days of an election. City Clerk Borling indicated the new law would most likely prevent the Clerk's Office from sending out sample ballots for the Presidential Election. City Clerk Borling indicated he and City Attorney Robinson were following developments related to the new law.

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – City Manager's Office

Deputy City Manager Patsy Moore delivered a presentation on the FY2016 proposed budgets for the City Manager's Office and the Non-Departmental Expenditures. Copies of the slides from this presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Deputy City Manager Moore indicated there were no changes to the dollar amounts in the "Initiatives" section of the budget from 2015-2016.

Mayor Hopewell asked if Commissioners had any concerns or questions about staffing levels in the City Manager's Office, but no questions or concerns were raised.

City Manager Ritsema stated adoption of the budget was scheduled for January 19th, and he indicated input from this meeting and the budget work session on December 14th would be incorporated into the final

Presentations on the Proposed FY2016 Budget – City Manager's Office (cont'd)

budget document. City Manager Ritsema reported February 6th was the tentative date for a City Commission retreat.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson, Director Kisscorni stated the parking system budget was a status quo budget, pending approval of the Five-Year Parking Plan in February.

City Manager Ritsema thanked the staff who presented their budgets.

Citizen Comments

Next, an opportunity was given for general citizen comments, but no comments were offered.

Commissioner Comments

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments from City Commissioners.

Vice Mayor Cooney stated it was impressive to see everything staff was doing. Vice Mayor Cooney remarked on a candlelight vigil held the day before for two young people who were recently killed.

Mayor Hopewell noted he would be talking to Commissioners about their board/commission/committee assignments and indicated he would try to get this item on the January 19th meeting agenda. Mayor Hopewell remarked that it had been a bumpy start to the year regarding youth violence in the community.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on February 15, 2016

Approved by: ____________________________
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: February 15, 2016