Mayor David Sims called the special council meeting of August 3, 2016 to order at 6:04 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sims, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith, Connie Wells, and Adam Arthur, Clerk Kris Larson, City Administrator Mike Klaus, Police Chief Vic Watson, and Street Superintendent John Youngwirth. Also present was Jessica Tingley.

The purpose of the special meeting was to hold a workshop for the fiscal year 2017 budget. Mayor Sims is troubled over the sustainability of the general fund. He is concerned about the contingency getting used due to pool repairs or golf course capital needs that are forthcoming as well as other capital needs for the City. He said the longer we put off those changes the harder it will be.

Mike is concerned about capital purchases that are needed and gave an example of a large piece of equipment breaking down in the street department. John said he did budget for rebuilding the lawn tractor but that was an expense that was removed when we were trying to reduce the budget. David said we may be able to cut back the hours of our temporary parks person.

Mike went over the capital needs listed in the general fund in the amount of $318,000.

David said the greatest asset of the city are the employees, and if we get to the point where we cannot pay a good wage we will lose good employees.

David said the Boise State University (BSU) Intern Program may be helpful to us in planning to go forward with working on the general fund.

John said he has a lot of work to do, but if we cut supplies then he may have too many people to keep busy. He said the flower baskets take a lot of time. The new highway project will take much more time for maintenance. Rick said the trees in the sidewalk grates are getting big and need to be replaced. David said maybe we can apply for an Arbor Day grant to help with tree replacement.

Mayor Sims asked if Vic purchases the vehicle on the lot in October if he will have a savings over waiting. He is looking at a police package Tahoe and it is $37,000 under the State bid. Vic is not sure if he waits to purchase it if the price will go up much. Rick said if a tow package is purchased the vehicle is more heavy duty. Vic said Dodge Durangos are less than Tahoes and he can consider looking at a Dodge.

Ron Smith asked about the $1,000 increase in the dispatch agreement. David will ask the County to eliminate the increase. He thinks it is fair to charge us for dispatching utilities, and it is probable for this cost to be $12,000. David said the County pays about $4,000 for running the plates so it is only about a $10,000 savings. Mayor Sims said the ISP reports makes the City police department shine. Ron thinks it is not fair to the taxpayer for the City to pay the dispatch agreement as the County is getting 911 fees, and the city taxpayer pays into the justice fund just like a county resident. Rick said historically the dispatch agreement was to pay for one dispatcher. Ron said the new 911 system is for the whole county. John Youngwirth said if the City is being charged there are other entities that should be charged also.
Mayor Sims said a list of city officers assisting county officers need to be kept so we can show the Sheriff. Vic said at least once every 24 hours there is a city officer assisting the county. Mayor Sims said a detailed list needs to be kept. Vic said there are five officers on during the day and one at night at the County. Vic thinks the county has 11 full time officers and we have seven. He is hoping for a better distribution of County manpower in the future.

John Youngwirth and Vic Watson left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

The group reviewed the enterprise funds.

A lengthy discussion ensued about wage increases. The wage increases in the 2017 budget will be effective the first pay period in October. The first pay period in October starts on October 2, 2016 (Clerk’s note: the first pay period in October starts October 9, 2016).

Mayor Sims asked if council is interested in having BSU look at the general fund and future budgets. Council thinks it is a good idea.

The budget workshop ended at 8:47 p.m.

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David Sims, Mayor

Attest:

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Kris Larson, City Clerk