

MINUTES
January 6, 2014
4:00 PM
Workshop Meeting

CALL TO ORDER	4:00PM
ROLL CALL	Keller, Benson, Robustellini and Aiello
ABSENT	Hammond
OTHERS	A. Johnson, D. Johnson, S. Drageset, J. Sprague, D. Kincade and A. Cook

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

1. Discussion pertaining to the City of Montague's Finances
(review of prior and current year income and expenditures)

Keller explained that this workshop was the result of the December 2013 council meeting where the council was considering the creation of a "Youth Coordinator Position" to oversee the fund raising and hiring process for the pool. Benson expressed some concerns about funding a new position which lead to this workshop.

Keller stated that she had been in contact Jennifer our Director of the Kids Club and former Teen Center to see if she might be interested in this position, and she indicated that she was interested but would have some minor scheduling issues between June 10-19 and that she could commit to three days a week or about ten to twelve hours a week while the pool is open.

Benson and Kincade both expressed their concerns about continuing the Kids Club due to a drop in attendance. It was pointed out that the Montague Elementary School offers a summer program and the city has the library and the city pool as alternative places for the kids to go. Aiello and Keller believed that there were a limited number of spots for the school summer program and that the school charged a fee, which not all kids could afford. Keller asked if the library could add to its program.

Benson mentions combining the Code Enforcement and Animal Control position and to closed the Kids Club and divert the funds to the pool and the library.

Benson provided a spread sheet showing five years of audited income and expenses relative to the general fund. He pointed out that the income for sales and use tax, vehicle tax and license fees have dropped considerably and that our expenses are continuing to go up. The sheriff contract will be going up 3% each year of which the city currently pays about \$90,000 (not counting any grant funds) and the general fund also supports code enforcement, animal control, kids club, library and pool. If you look at the general transfer outs they have increased from approximately \$60,957 up to \$128,345 over the past five years. Sprague provided spread sheets showing six years of audited financials applicable to all city savings and checking accounts which shows the balances of public funds.

Steve Drageset, the auditor stated that the city really needed to look at their priorities. He said that all the cities are experiencing a huge drop in revenues (property taxes and sales taxes) and an increase in expenses (mostly utilities). He said you want to entice people to want to move to Montague to live here. You are doing that with the water improvements, police protection, parks and the pool. Bringing in more businesses would increase sales tax revenues. Keller added that if the city cuts programs people will not want to come here.

Deborah Johnson asked if the city could apply to the Sheriff Lopey's personal fund for donations for pool operations. Drageset stated that grants and the type of programs the sheriff donates to are not for general operations. The money would have to be used as an improvement.

Ann Cook mentions that she enrolls in the COS Aquatic Class every year and would be willing to pay an extra \$10 for the course (providing the extra funds would be given to the city towards operating the pool).

Suggestions about checking into bus transportation from Yreka to the Montague pool which may or may not increase attendance, check on income results of the night swims and consider cutting if it is not profiting, and check with COS about increasing the cost of the Aquatic Class and passing that increase to the city thru the enrollment process.

General discussion ensued about the minimum wage was increasing to \$9.00 per hour and that closing the Kids Club would save two positions and afford us to keep Jennifer with increased hours.

Aiello mention that the Dunsmuir pool only charges \$1 for kids and \$2 for adults and was wondering how they can afford to run their pool.

In summary the meeting resulted in the following list of things to check into or consider:

Check with other cities about their pools (size and admin fee)

Check our pool fee structure (admin and food)

Check our pool night attendance verses paying staff

Check with our library about adding other kid programs

Consider closing the Kids Club

Consider combining CEO and ACO

ADJOURN: 5:30PM

ATTEST:

CITY OF MONTAGUE:

Janie Sprague, City Clerk

Jayne Keller, Mayor