

Crystal Falls, Michigan

August 10, 2009

A special meeting of the Council for the City of Crystal Falls was held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall on Monday, August 10, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Central Time.

Present: Mayor Hendrickson, Councilors Smokevitch, Burke, Hagglund and Bicigo.

Absent: None

Also present were: City Manager Nordeman, City Attorney Lawrence, and City Clerk/Treasurer Olson.

Visitors in attendance included Marion Hawks, Edna Heikkinen, Roger Major, Jay Gore, Mark Simeoni, Tara Peltoma, Lindsey Hawks, Steven Fabbri, John Ahola, Robert Sherwin, Brett Niemi, Mary Lahna, Jeff Sjoquist, Scott McNeilis, Angelo Diqui, Larry Bicigo, Jeff West, Tracy and Doug West and family, and Gigi Nousianinen.

The purpose of this special meeting is to conduct a Public Hearing on the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget.

Mayor Hendrickson led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Nordeman presented his budget to the City Council and reviewed his budget message to the Council. He explained his suggestions for the reduction of expenditures in the General Fund revolved around the employee benefits and that the pending union negotiations may result in an altered budget.

The issue of short funding the fire protection caused much discussion.

Visitor Jeff West inquired as to how the City could fund the fire protection before without additional tax dollars and now is only offering a third of the needed funds.

Edna Heikkinen voiced that the fire funding is merely another example where the customer is paying more and getting less, police and fire are very important services and the City needs to continue to fund those departments.

Marion Hawks felt that Crystal Falls is great because they have always been willing to pay for those protections (fire and police). She suggested raising the electric rates to cover the shortfalls.

John Ahola asked if the fire protection cost has been discussed with the township officials?

Manager Nordeman asked if there were any budget questions about the other funds.

Councilor Burke advised that he was ready to vote on the budget as presented.

Councilor Bicigo was concerned that it would be premature to vote on the budget with the union negotiations still pending.

Mayor Hendrickson adjourned the budget hearing at 4:55 p.m.

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Presiding Officer

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Presiding Clerk