



APRIL 21, 2016

Citizen Chalkboard Budget Workshop Parking Lot Questions?

The city staff of Hapeville thanks you for attending the Citizen Chalkboard Budget Workshop. During the workshop conducted April 13-14, 2016 we received many questions and suggestions from you our citizens. City staff worked diligently to try and find as many answers as we could to all the questions presented.

We have now taken time to create a document with answers to all of these questions. Those of you that attended the session will also be sent a follow up email by your group facilitator. If you have any more questions please do not hesitate to contact the city.

Q) What are our outstanding debts?

Response- The City's total debt adds up to \$14,145,000. The majority of that debt resides in both the development authority, general fund expenditures, and past maintenance/repair of water and sewer system. Those accounts add up to \$2,520,000 for the development authority and \$10,740,000 water and sewer/general. This past fiscal year the city paid a total of \$1,757,368 on its outstanding debts including interest.

Q) Can we use the money presented in the budget workshop to bolster our reserves?

Response- Of course. In fact funding reserves was the number one funded item in the budget workshop. Like many communities, our goal will be to build back adequate reserves for a "rainy day" while at the same time meeting the current and projected service demands of the City. Finding the right balance between these demands is the is the key to financial success.

Q) Is Hoyt Smith ADA certified?

Response- The short answer to that question is that some portions of Hoyt Smith are ADA compliant. The main entrance into the building and the first floor is ADA certified. However the basement and stage are not. Currently those with a physical disability will need assistance to gain access to the stage and basement. This is not uncommon for many public facilities constructed prior to passage of ADA in the late 1980's. Assistance is available for anyone needing access provided they make an advance request.



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Q) Can we obtain a credit rating with the \$2.6 million estimate in the chalkboard?

Response- The long and short of it is no. Even with the \$2.6 million added to our current reserves it just does not make good financial sense to obtain a credit rating at this time. With the cities current reserves and other fiscal demands on the budget it is very doubtful that the credit rating would be positive. To remedy this situation we are working on long-term solutions to build up are reserves over time. We will also seek professional financial guidance from experts in this field once we are able to consistently have more cash available than operating demands require. City management will continue to evaluate and monitor this issue.

Q) Thoughts on consolidating city buildings?

Response- That question will be reviewed and checked for operational efficiencies by our staff. It is a matter that will take some thought and planning and should be considered long-term. We thank you for the input.

Q) Employee raises phased in?

Response- Yes, that is a logical option for making salary increases as cost effective as possible. Management is evaluating this option closely and it is being considered. Phasing is definitely an option being evaluated.

Q) What is the cost of leasing the bucket truck?

Response-The cost of leasing the bucket truck would range from \$1,250-1,500 dollars a month. We are of course currently looking at what would be the most cost effective option for the City.

Q) Can we hold businesses that locate in Hapeville accountable for giving back?

Response- Unfortunately no. The city can discuss partnering opportunities and we have several companies who consistently give back and work closely with us. However, at the end of the day, the City of Hapeville has no legal recourse or any kind of leverage to obtain or force such a partnership arrangement.

Q) Can we buy PD radios through the state?

Response- Yes we can. We are now trying to gauge if that would be the most cost effective method. Grants (where available) are also being explored and considered.

Q) What is the status of the roof warranty?



Response-The roof warranty for the city was allowed to laps. The roof method in question was for foam roofing, which apparently has leaked every two years after being renewed and replaced. Because renewing the warranty cost the city considerably the city decided to allow the warranty to laps.

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Q) How much are the enterprise funds and what do they fund?

Response- The City has several enterprise funds. Those funds are for Garbage, Water and Sewer services and support the cost of those operations. They add up to \$4,312,772. The breakdown is \$3,845,389 for water and sewer, \$467,383 solid waste.

Q) Can we move paving and road maintenance to T-Splost?

Response- We can fund the capital cost of paving under T-SPLOST. However, the on going maintenance expenditure would not be an eligible T-SPLOST.

Q) Can the city implement performance reviews/purchasing systems?

Response- Yes, Management is currently working on plans for a major update of its personnel policy manual and the purchasing procedures for the City.

Q) Can we rent the next rec van?

Response-Yes that is a possibility. The city is currently reviewing alternatives to buying the new rec van.

During the Citizen Chalkboard many comments and suggestions were raised. The city staff will be going over the suggestions and thank you for your input and time.

Comments

We need to look at a conversion plan from the old benefit plan to the new one whenever implemented.

We would like more opportunities for employees and residents to exchange ideas like this.

Salary comparison survey is greatly needed.

Cross training between police & fire departments needed.

Establish a Planning & Community Development Dept.

Overview needed for every dept.



Quarterly based budget report by dept.

All city property needs to be cleaned up and brought into code compliance.

All budget costs tied to measureable goals.

Construct a Dog Park.

Salary increases should be based off of merit.

Again we thank you for assisting us in the budget process, and for your input.

Sincerely,

-City Manager & Staff

Hapeville Georgia