
MINUTES
2002 BUDGET HEARING

BASEHOR CITY COUNCIL

August 13, 2001

7:00 PM

Basehor City Hall

OFFICIAL PRESIDING: Mayor William Hooker

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Pres. Joseph Scherer, Joseph Odle, Chris Garicia,
Julian Espinoza (Burl Gratny-absent)**

**Staff Present: Mary Mogle, Mike Hooper, Vince Weston, Gene Myracle,
John Thompson and Baron Powell**

The public hearing was called to order by Mayor Hooker at 7:05 p.m. All members were present except Burl Gratny.

Mayor Hooker announced the purpose of the public hearing was to allow for citizen comments regarding the proposed 2002 Budget. At this time, the meeting was turned over to the city treasurer for a brief explanation of the contents of the budget.

Treasurer, Baron Powell, gave a brief presentation explaining the reason for the 2002 budget to increase from 16.552 mills to 28.662 mills. He noted a principal and interest payment was made to Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment that had not been budgeted for in its entirety. Mr. Powell reported even with the increase in taxes, it will be necessary to raise monthly sewer charges by 12%. It was also noted by Mr. Powell, that the General Fund was lowered to help compensate for the increase.

Public Comment

Mayor Hooker opened the floor to citizen comment. He advised the residents they would have 5 minutes to address their concerns and requested they come to the podium, state their name and address:

Twila Heinen, 15303 N. 154th Terr, stated she did not feel the 12 mill increase in taxes was fair to everyone in the city. Those residents who do not have access to sewers should not be taxed. She expressed concerns that once the mill levy goes up, the council will not take steps to reduce it in the future when the funds are built back up.

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The treasurer reported he has made projections into the year 2006 and felt that it would not be necessary to increase the taxes to cover the deficit; however, the budget and sewer fund would need to be evaluated on an annual basis.

Susan Guy, 1713 N. 150th Street, expressed concerns that by lowering the General Fund budget, it might cause some city services to be cut.

Mr. Powell reported the change in the General Fund is that a smaller amount of money will be transferred to the capital improvement funds.

Mrs. Guy stated she did not feel those residents who do not have access to city sewers should pay for it through taxes. If the council choose to pass the budget as is, she requested those residents be compensated, possibly in the form of a credit, in the future when sewers become available.

Mrs. Guy's second request was that sales tax money be spent on road improvements as promised by past administration. She urged the governing body to "revamp" the budget to allow all sales tax dollars to be allocated to the Highway Fund.

Councilman Odle noted that once the properties south of 24-40 Highway hook onto the city wastewater facility, this will assist in paying the debt of the facility.

Mr. Powell noted that sales tax money does go into the General Highway Fund for the purpose of road maintenance and improvements.

Victor Ziegler, 1506 N. 142nd Street, reported he "sat on the council for nine years and always told the public that sewers would be paid for by users only". He noted that according to his figures he city would experience a "shortfall" in the sewer budget. He stated he is opposed to the increase in the mill levy and only favors an increase in sewer rates.

Twila Heinen asked if the city could come back and raise taxes later in the year. The city clerk noted that only sewer rates could be increased, by council amending their current policy, and that once the notice of public hearing is published, the city can only reduce the tax limit, not raise it.

Anna Mary Landauer, 1111 N. 155th Street, wished to remind the council that they were elected by the people to spend their tax dollars wisely and felt that the proposed budget needed to be evaluated prior to approval.

Council Discussion

Mayor Hooker asked if any members of the council had any questions or comments at this time. There were none. Therefore, he entertained a motion to approve, reject or amend the proposed 2002 Budget.

A motion was made by J. Odle to adopt the proposed 2002 Budget as written, approve the Ordinance attesting to the increase of taxes and certify Sewer District #12 assessments. The motion was seconded by C. Garcia. All aye. Motion carried 4-0.

There being no further business to discuss, the public hearing was closed and meeting adjourned (7:30 pm). Mayor Hooker stated the special meeting will be called to order directly following the public hearing.

Submitted for Council approval with without corrections this 20th day of August, 2001.



Mayor William Hooker

Attest:



Mary A. Mogle, CMC