

**BUDGET HEARING  
2016 FY'  
August 31, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m., Honorable Joseph R. Peterson presiding

PRESENT: Councilpersons Fricke (entered mtg. at 6:12 p.m.) Galeski, Sabuda,  
Schultz (entered mtg. at 6:06 p.m.), VanBoxell

ABSENT: Councilperson Miciura

ALSO PRESENT: Todd Drysdale, City Administrator

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss TIFA, DDA and Brownfield funds.

Councilman Sabuda asked that the DDA discussion be delayed until more Council Members were present, due to the important nature of his questions.

Administrator Drysdale went on to discuss Fund 231 - Brownfield Development.

Recess called at 5:15 by Mayor Peterson due to the tardiness of the other Council Members.

Reconvene at 5:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilpersons Fricke (entered mtg. at 6:12 p.m.), Galeski, Sabuda,  
Schultz (entered at 6:06 pm), VanBoxell

ABSENT: Councilperson Miciura

Police Chief Dan Grant was present to answer Councilpersons Fricke's question as to whether the Police Department could use an additional officer. The Chief indicated that two officers were in training, and it would be wise to see how the contract talks play out. Currently there are 33 Officers, and 3.5 Ordinance Officers.

Councilwoman Fricke had questions to the Engineer about the money escrowed by homebuyers to make (on sale) code repairs. Engineer Kowalewski reported that there are 1,495 outstanding permits worth \$285,020.00. There is over \$1,000,000 in the escrow account as a result of people losing or forgetting about their lists of repairs. They don't forget about the money. This amount was identified during the recent audit by Plante & Moran.

Councilman Schultz arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Natalie Rankine, DDA Director and Leo Stevenson, DDA Board Member, were present to discuss the DDA budget. Discussion regarding the Downriver Council for the Arts, installation/tear down of the City's Christmas Lights by a contractor and the DDA's soon to hire a business procurement person. Ms. Rankine also discussed the purchase of new trash cans and benches. Ms. Rankine also reported that the Art Center never got on its feet after five years and needs to do more fundraising. Leo Stevenson indicated that the new contract with the Art Center had more stringent budget constraints with more accountability. The DDA is trying to get more people who visit the Art Center to visit the Downtown area. Approximately 250 people a week visit the Art Center.

Councilperson Galeski requested a profit and loss statement from the Art Center. He also asked if other Downriver cities contribute to the Art Center. The DCA has been instructed to solicit funds from other cities, but Southgate has opted out of the DCA Funding.

Sabuda not happy with DDA/WBA Funding and wants it stopped. "Government should not subsidize business." Future funding from DDA includes 1st and Oak Dumpster enclosure, old City Hall, Marina (marketing & advertising - no construction costs), Fogel Lot, Lions, Tigers & Bears, and the Sullivan Bldg.

Mayor Peterson sought a motion on the DDA Budget - no formal motion was brought forward.

Councilperson Fricke asked about museum account. Does revenue support Museum and staff? Administrator Drysdale stated that there is a transfer from the DDA Account. They do not cover their costs, but neither does the Yack Arena or Golf Course.

Councilperson Galeski would like to move Dog Pound back to Wyandotte and get out of joint venture with other cities. Mayor Peterson stated that there is an ongoing investigation of the dog pound, the outcome is underdetermined. Drysdale will supply a report on investigation in three months.

Motion by Schultz to accept the budget as presented, supported by Sabuda  
Motion carried.

NAYS: Councilpersons Fricke and Galeski

Budget hearing adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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Lawrence S. Stec, City Clerk