

**CITY OF DUBUQUE, IOWA
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
OFFICIAL**

The Dubuque City Council met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on February 17, 2011 in the Historic Federal Building.

Present: Mayor Buol, Council Members Braig, Connors, Jones, Lynch, Resnick; City Manager Van Milligen

Mayor Buol read the call and stated this is a special session of the City Council called for the purpose of discussing various City departmental budgets.

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REVIEW

Fiscal Year 2012 Departmental Budgets were presented by staff from the following City departments: Human Rights Department, Information Services Department, Five Flags Center, Grand River Center (Conference Center), Recreation Division, and Parks Division. City Council had discussion with staff following each presentation.

Human Rights Department: Human Rights Director Kelly Larson introduced staff and presented the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for this department. Responding to questions from City Council, Larson stated that the department will start mediation and processes the claim intakes while the City Attorney's Office handles the formal complaints adding that Intercultural Competency Training is most successful through institutional training and neighborhood outreach.

Information Services Department: Information Services Manager Chris Kohlmann introduced staff and presented the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for this department. Responding to questions from City Council, Kohlmann explained the virtual fax server improvement package, that funding resources for IBM-related projects are available for another year, and provided clarification of adjustments in software maintenance/licensing expenses.

Five Flags Center Division and Grand River Center (Conference Center): Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware thanked staff/commission members and presented the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for these divisions. Responding to questions from City Council, Ms. Ware confirmed the amount of property tax support for both facilities, replacement of exterior benches at the Grand River Center will be skateboard-proof with old benches being recycled; and painting of the facility is on a rotation with the Exhibit Hall due at this time. Van Milligen explained the operating agreement between the Grand River Center and Platinum Hospitality Group and the obligations of the Vision Iowa Grant. Grand River Center Manager Mitzy Yordy thanked the Council for their partnership.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas introduced staff and presented the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for this division. Responding to questions from

City Council, Prevenas explained the changes in Miscellaneous Services; consideration will be given to a Porta-Potty for the BMX Park; and the cost of the golf course irrigation system is split over fiscal years 2013 and 2014. Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware described the changes in and challenges with the AmeriCorps program. Multicultural Family Center Director Tara Velez described the activities and progress of the Center.

Parks Division: Parks Division Manager Bob Fritsch presented the Fiscal Year 2012 budget for this Division. Braig questioned the unapproved improvement package allowing for increased wages for employees certified for work with pesticides. Responding to questions from City Council, Mr. Fritsch stated that the improvement package allowing for a new employee to care for the Bee Branch Creek project is also needed now for care of existing natural plantings that require attention. Van Milligen added that delay of the request would not impact property taxes and minimally impact the storm water fee. Fritsch added that he advises against the more costly "ornamental" landscaping and favors an increase in native plantings. Resnick questioned the need for a specialist to work with low-maintenance native landscape. Adjustments are being made in the placement of the playground unit and layout of Comiskey Park.

There being no further business, upon motion the City Council adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

/s/Jeanne S. Schneider, CMC
City Clerk