

MINUTES
Eveleth City Council Budget Workshop
12:15 p.m., March 5, 2009
Council Chambers, City Hall, Eveleth, MN

Council in Attendance: Councilor Kuoppala, Councilor Kallevig, Councilor Koivunen, Councilor Hoag, Mayor Matos

Also in Attendance: City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek; Deputy Clerk Stephanie Friebe; Director of Public Works Mike Wiskow; Chief of Police Brian Lillis; Library Director Mary Beth Kafut.

At the last Council Budget Workshop Meeting held February 11, 2009, the Council discussed cutting budgeted items from the "A" and "B" lists. Total cuts for 2009 amounted to \$203,447 with \$61,450 being considered as permanent cuts. The Council has not yet discussed cutting items from the "C" list.

Councilor Kuoppala suggested each department look at laying off one full-time employee. Matos proposed a 32 hour week to possibly begin this summer. The Public Works Department has 19 employees, City Hall has nine employees and the Police Department has 11 employees to include the Police Secretary. The Council would like each department head to report back at the next budget meeting as to which employees are close to retiring. City Clerk/Administrator will also look into how much longer the City will be paying for current retiree's on City paid health benefits. These areas will be investigated prior to laying off any employees. Discussion also took place on relieving all casual employees (including the golf course casuals).

Councilor Kuoppala suggested the City look at partnering with other cities to combine any possible services as a way to save money. Councilor Kuoppala said the levy limits could be removed.

City Clerk/Administrator Monahan-Junek said she hopes to have a decision regarding the City's health benefits by May.

Councilor Kuoppala questioned the viability of charging a recreation fee to all residents. Monahan-Junek will research and report back to the Council.

Councilor Kuoppala requested each department head to investigate the cost to outsource some of the City's services (i.e. payroll, etc.). Monahan-Junek said Gilbert's City Clerk will be retiring soon. She has started discussions with the Gilbert Mayor and current City Clerk, Gary Mackley, regarding the possibility of sharing staff options.

Kuoppala suggested the City consider renting out office space upstairs of City Hall.

Director Wiskow would like the City to establish rates at the Hippodrome. Wiskow would like to explore selling ice time to Youth Hockey, etc. Wiskow requested time to meet with the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The Council will schedule a follow up budget workshop.