

City of Monroe
City Hall, Monroe, Louisiana
April 4, 2018
4:00 p.m.

There was a legal special session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Louisiana held this date at the Council's regular meeting place, the Council Chamber, City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Gretchen Ezernack, Chairman, called the meeting to order. She then asked the Clerk to call the roll.

There were present: Council members Echols, Ezernack, Woods, Wilson and Clark

There was absent: None.

The Honorable Gretchen Ezernack, presiding officer, declared a quorum was present and asked Mr. Rod Washington, Public Relations Officer to lead the invocation and pledge.

The Honorable Gretchen Ezernack, presiding officer, then stated the object of the meeting; that being to consider: (1) The 2018/19 fiscal year budget submitted by the Administration for review by the Council in Budget Hearing #1.

Mr. Danny Richards, Budget Officer, gave the opening statement of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2018/2019 projects both Revenues and Expenditures to equal \$59,586,159. This is an increase of 3.8% over the current year 2018 adopted budget.

The City's two main revenue sources, Sales Tax and Property Tax, represent 73% of all General Fund Revenues. The other 27% comes from user fees, changes and other sources.

Sales Tax was projected using a trending model which shows a downward trend in collections. Sales Tax is projected to generate \$35.8 million when you include the Enterprise Zone Rebate. The estimated revenue from sales tax in fiscal year 2019 is a decrease of approximately 6% over fiscal year 2017 actual collections.

The taxable value of property in the City increased by approximately 4% Property Tax for the 5 General Fund Property Tax Millage are expected to generate \$7.6 million.

The only budgeted "transfer in" to the General Fund comes from the Capital Infrastructure Fund. The amount is approximately \$1.1 million and is mandated by ordinance for the purposes of street maintenance.

During the preliminary stages of the budget process the departmental budget requests for the General Fund exceeded the projected revenues by \$3.5 million. Each of the department heads were given an estimated amount of the budget shortfall on a pro rata basis and asked to make cuts to balance the budget.

The proposed fiscal year 2019 budget is the result of many months of hard work for the Mayor's Office, the department and division heads and their staff and Mr. Richards commend each and every one of them for their efforts.

After the opening statement the Chairman moved on with the agenda

The Budgets discussed were as follows:

1.) Revenues

Mr. Echols wanted to know since we have done last week the changes in the water rates how do we work that through this budget.

Mrs. Rowell, Director of Administration, said obviously the budget was prepared before so we will have to include those in a budget amendment.

Mr. Echols wanted to know from a grant perspective do you have an accumulative estimation of what we could perceive this year from a grant standpoint.

Mrs. Rowell said not accumulatively each department pretty much still have some FEMA that is still yet to come based on some reimbursements due to projects through CIC because that's where the work is going to be paid from. We have gotten a lot of our FEMA reimbursements through the General Fund for the protective services plus the Community Block Grant we sit up through the disaster recovery to reimburse those portions that were not covered by FEMA. Once that process gets effective we will start seeing the rest of the money and hopefully we will be pretty much restored from FEMA.

Mr. Echols wanted an estimate of what's left outstanding.

Mrs. Rowell said she would have to look.

Mr. Echols asked if these were just dollars we expended in five years and we are waiting on recoupment of that.

Mrs. Rowell said in about two years.

Mr. Echols noted that we have that budgeted into our revenues.

Mrs. Rowell said we do not have it budgeted because of the timing and we did that the first time and it took them so long to reimburse us regardless of what we did. We basically if we have word from FEMA that we are fixing to get a check cut we wait until we get that notification. We don't put it in the budget at all.

Mr. Wilson entered the meeting at 4:10pm and the Chairman asked him if he had any questions under Revenues and he had none at this time.

Mr. Echols wanted to know the general forecast for fee income overall for the City for other things like permitting, Code Enforcement, Recreation and are we forecasting increase in those going forward overall.

Mrs. Rowell said overall on most of those that might have had a fee increase recently are fill in the projections otherwise.

Mr. Richards said that he did try to do trends on the individual line items, but he doesn't have a collective total to be able to gauge any particular division on how that changed.

2.) Council

Chairman Ezernack noted that they were asked to propose their budget which we did and they were also told that revenues were going to be limited this year due to the decline in Sales Tax Revenue, so they were asked to make some changes to the budget, which they did. They had to come back and do it again as she understands most of the departments and division were asked to do the same and that is how we arrived at the budget that we have standing right now.

Mr. Echols asked what was the net decrease in the council's budget year after year for the general public's knowledge.

Mr. Richards said the dollar amount for 2018 is \$728,000 and for 2019 it is 545,374.

Mr. Echols asked for the specified areas that have been reduced in that budget.

Mr. Richards noted that the biggest decrease was under Legal and Professional \$140,000 to \$40,000 and one position unfunded.

Mr. Echols noted that in the last fiscal year they also had decrease in the Council's budget, correct.

Mr. Richard noted that he didn't have the budget amount but what was spent in 2017 was \$552,681 and your 2018 budget is \$728,000.

Mr. Echols noted that his only concern with the budget decrease they currently have is that last year they trended at \$552,000 and we are budgeting \$545,000. So, his only concern is that they are going to come in over budget, but they have the largest percentage increase in probably any other division. He wanted to know if that would be accurate.

Mrs. Rowell said that percentage wise she would have to look and see.

Mr. Echols said that it was 25% roughly.

Mrs. Rowell said you spent \$552,000 and you are coming in with a budget of \$545,000 you are actually cutting.

Mr. Echols is saying from a budgetary standpoint, not budget verse actual.

Mrs. Rowell said there is a cut of a \$1,000.

Mr. Echols noted that maybe you can expand on and he know having district projects has been very important for all the councilmen and women specifically for our community centers as we add in equipment for our community centers and things that are priority because we are out talking to our constituents. He knows they have had a discussion about how we can work together collaboratively and find dollars for those centers. Maybe you can elaborate on that to one give our constituents the confidents that while we are reducing our budget from a visual standpoint there will still be investments made in our parks, community centers and the things that our constituents are asking to do.

Mrs. Rowell explained that there is a special revenue fund call the capital fund and the revenue source for that is the video bingo money. The capital proceeds come into that special revenue fund and it is designated for capital improvements and expenditures. In the past they have basically taken that money and get a loan basically a five-year lease and buy equipment and things like that. It is not bringing in what it used to so we hope that we can look at instead of eating up some of that with interest expense over the years maybe we can look at pay as you go projects and figure out a way to allocate that between the different departments and use that wisely.

Mr. Wilson noted that he was disappointed in the Council 's budget being cut, certainly for those projects last year and as he recalls he didn't use all his funds. He knows they did some things with the courthouse, replaced the carpet and he asked for some cameras to be installed at the parks to handle vandalism at Lee Avenue, Jackson Street and Mount Nebo. He is a little disappointed in that being cut the way it is for the citizens of our districts. He is going to look at that a little closer before they finally adopt this budget for the record.

Ms. Woods noted that while they are talking about the decrease we are talking about cutting it from \$740,000 to \$545,000. When we were talking about were the majority of this money was coming from we had a position that was not funded and cut \$100,000 from Legal and Professional. So, we had that in there for last year and last year we only used actually \$552,000.

Mrs. Rowell said close to that.

Ms. Woods noted that last year they had the money where each councilperson was given \$20,000 to do some things in the district and we all were appreciative of that but it was also included in that \$552,000.

Mrs. Rowell said yes that was included in that and that \$100,000 was in that Legal and Professional because at one time the Council before this had put that in there to be able to go out and get some services of some legal and professional and they never got those services and that money was basically just sitting there. It wasn't put in there for special projects, that wasn't the intent of it. Since, it had not been spent in that particular year you were able to go ahead and use it. It is not something that had been done that way in the past being spent on

special projects. That has never been in the Council's budget like that before. That was a one-time thing so that money was left in that line item when you got ready to do it. We didn't have a lot of heartburn over it, we still came out with a surplus instead of a deficit. But going forward that's not a luxury we have at this point and that was one of those things that we were trying to find another avenue to do it through like a special revenue fund rather than having to do it through the General Fund.

Ms. Woods noted that when Mr. Echols asked what means or streams of moneys might be available for the Council to continue to be able to do certain things for the folks in the districts. You are saying that would come under the Capital Improvement Fund.

Mrs. Rowell said it would come from the Capital Special Revenue Fund and hopefully they will work through those funds to be able to do those kinds of things.

Chairman Ezernack explained that some of the things that they actually did last year and were able to do extra over and above, maybe some budgetary items that some different departments could not do at that particular time, which was a blessing for them as well. But several years ago, before this council was seated that particular line item had been inflated at one time even maybe to \$200,000 and she thinks maybe they has reduced the cost on that to \$140,000 due to the fact that they were going to go out and hire their own attorney and some things of that nature. She further noted that just kept rolling back over as a number and she thinks it was reduced one time previously to where it is now. It held up a lot of money that was never spent, however, in saying that if there is a change somewhere in our revenue stream we would like to see that be able to be done again through the means that you are speaking of through the special revenue line item for that, because that is something that if we have some extras that we can do that. We do look to each one of the departments to help us in their budget as well with some of the things that we were able to do last year. Hopefully some of those items are still in their budget as a line item to take care of as well, but as the other council members have said that is important. We also don't want to get to a point where we increase our budget and then someone else budget needs to be reduced or someone may not be employed again or something for that. So, she thinks it's a fine line right now that they are going to be walking in all avenues because if you take something from somewhere else and give it to us then you are taking it away from someone else at this point just because of the limited funds. If we could just maybe stay on top of that and be informed about how everything is as we are always informed. Maybe we will see that sooner that rather later in the budget year. She thinks everyone from what is said in the finance meetings is doing a good job of trying to take care of their budget and rain in expenses and are doing their job as well. She thinks they have to take the leadership role to do that too and hopefully all these things will pay off and we will turn the corner later on in the year and be able to do some of the things we want to do extra for the different departments and our constituents.

3.) Court/Marshal

Court – Judge Lee and Joyce

Judge Lee thanked everyone for the improvements that were made at the court last year with the carpet and the roof.

Judge Joyce said they are in pretty good shape really and the necessities are covered.

Mr. Wilson thanked Ms. Nanci and Angie Baldwin who came to him and said they had a project if he wanted to do the court system, so he used his dollars for that. He is glad for that and he appreciate the things they are doing at the Monroe City Court.

Marshal – Justin January and Carrie Simon

Mr. Wilson wanted to know if they were fully staffed.

Marshal January said yes and what the Marshal did was changed 2 full time deputies over to part-time deputies which he believes saves the City some money. Are we fully staffed yes and no.

Mr. Wilson thanked them for what they are doing.

Ms. Woods noted that you said yes and no but you utilize volunteers, so what does that number look like.

Marshal January said reserves are what you mean and they come in sometimes and are able to help at the court and the duty station here at the city.

Ms. Woods wanted to know how many do you have.

Marshal January said they have about 10 or 12 reserves.

Ms. Woods said so that compensates for the lack of ones on the payroll.

Marshal January said yes.

4.) Mayor

Ms. Rowell noted for the record that the Mayor budget has been cut by 250,000.

Mr. Echols asked to know who else in this division has a car allow.

Mrs. Rowell said that included the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Echols wanted about contributions and the increase from \$5,000 to \$20,000.
What type of project are we budgeting for there?

Mrs. Rowell noted that they decreased from \$30,000 to \$20,000 actually: Youth, Fireworks, Twin Cities, Fourth Judicial Court etc., and some they are not sure who's going to submit.

5.) Public Works

General Fund – Tom Janway

Chairman Ezernack asked if some of the responsibility from public works transferred to parks and recreation.

Mrs. Rowell said there was a division that was moved the Forsythe division under public works was moved to a new division under Community Affairs call parks and recreation maintenance and they got about a million-dollar budget. Under Mr. Janway you got his Director's budget, Trash, garbage and sanitation.

Mr. Echols asked about the Administration account 1012 and he wanted to know what all that entailed and he knows there are 5 positions, but what services, what functions does it do within this division.

Ms. Rowell said that is a subdivision of sanitation.

Mr. Echols noted specifically under administrative services for that \$150,000 contract; what is that for.

Mrs. Rowell said that is the actual portion that is similar to what water and sewer transfer back to general fund.

Mr. Echols said so this is just an allocation of administrative that you roll back.

Mrs. Rowell said this will just come back as a credit in the general fund under city expenses.

Mr. Echols noted that with landfill use at nearly a million bucks, is there any opportunity on renegotiation on that or working with it.

Mr. Janway noted that there are only two landfill vendors in the area and they are pretty much competitive. There is very little difference in price. We have a long-term contract with another 5-year option on it at the end of 2018 and we have another 5-year option on that contract.

Mr. Echols asked so at the end of 2018 will we actually go back out to renegotiate that.

Mr. Wilson noted that he knows we are having problems with our trucks, he wanted to know if there is anything in the future we are planning on getting garbage trucks and tractors. The reason he is saying that is because he got a call today and some of the trucks haven't ran in 3 weeks.

Mr. Janway noted that we are going to operate within the means they are given and certainly that would be a consideration in the future and we are having discussion with the Mayor and Stacey on that right now.

Mr. Wilson noted and if there is anything he can do and certainly he knows that is one of the most important department and he has said this to Mr. Janway before that the citizens depend on them in public works.

Mr. Janway noted that's what further compounded that problem is the storms and the time of the year that we had last week then one last night and that has put a least 500 tons of additional debris out on the streets. A New trash truck run approximately \$175,000 apiece and a new garbage truck approximately \$200,000 apiece. They currently run 7 garbage trucks and we would like to run 7 trash trucks but have been unable to do so.

Mrs. Woods wanted to know how many trash trucks they are running.

Mr. Janway noted on a daily basis anywhere from 3 to 5.

Ms. Woods noted that definitely with all the weather that we have being having has you backed up, right.

Mr. Janway noted that last week the trash crew worked 12 hours a day and he is not sure what hours they are running this week, but he knows they are running overtime.

Ms. Woods wanted to know if they ran this weekend.

Mrs. Roshonda Gospel, Sanitation Superintendent, said they did run this weekend.

Ms. Woods noted to the credit of the public works department she understands that garbage and trash pickup are two separate pieces, is that correct.

Mrs. Gospel said that is correct and that the garbage is in the green contain and the trash is the yard debris that's on the side of the road.

Ms. Woods noted as citizen of Monroe we pay for garbage pickup and then the trash pickup is a courtesy.

Mrs. Gospel said pretty much yes.

Ms. Woods noted that she finds that to be quite interesting because for people to put their whole house furniture out on the streets and the expectation is for you all to pick it up.

Mrs. Gospel said yes ma'am.

Ms. Woods said that's interesting.

Mr. Janway noted for clarity and according to city ordinance it allows for 2 cubic yards of debris and there are certain requirements, the limbs have to be tied and cut to a certain length etc., and 2 cubic yards is about the size of the desk there and you can imagine what the city would look like if we adhered to the 2 cubic yards.

Ms. Woods wanted to know when you come into a community and you pick up all of this furniture, where does it go.

Mrs. Gospel said it goes to the landfill and they charge by the weight.

Ms. Woods asked so the city is being charged by bring it to the landfill.

Mrs. Gospel said that is correct.

Ms. Woods wanted to know how much does that cost the city annually.

Mr. Janway explained between administration cost, garbage and trash it is approximately \$3 million dollars a year.

Ms. Woods wanted to know about just trash and limbs.

Mr. Janway noted that actually the debris that they pick up is more tonnage than the actual garbage. It was fairly neck and neck for a while but it seems to have grown more.

Ms. Woods said she is seeing it more and more and right now people have their TVs out there and are you dropping those off at the landfill as well.

Mrs. Gospel said yes, they pick up everything that's out there.

Mr. Janway noted that they average picking up plus 30,000 tons of garbage and debris annually. With these storms and like the one in 2014 that was an additional 8,000 tons, the flood in 2016 was an additional 5,000 tons, so you can see an event like that you are looking at 15 to 20 percent more than what we would normally pick up in a normal year.

Ms. Woods asked about the ordinance for people who decide that they want to clean their yard and tire down buildings and sheds in their yards then pile all this on the streets and you pick that up too.

Mrs. Gospel said yes.

Mr. Janway explained that when they find that it is a little over 2 cubic yards they will go ahead and pick it up, but if they are tearing down whole buildings then what they do is turn it over to code enforcement for action.

Mr. Echols asked about the budget zeroed out sick and vacation time payment and are those rolled up into another.

Mrs. Rowell said they are actually budgeted in regular wages so the only thing that should post to sick and vacation is the final payoff.

Mr. Echols said so for retirements or terminations, the sick and vacation payments are rolled up into regular wages and we still have decreases in numerous areas. How many full-time positions with a 3.8% decrease in overall budget have we cut out of the City's budget in this budget.

Mr. Richards, Budget Officer, said that they unfunded 26 positions.

Mr. Echols said full time filled and he guess he is asking are they making any cuts and will they have to let go of folks with this new budget.

Mr. Richards said not that he is aware of.

Mr. Echols noted from last year to this year from an unfilled standpoint these are just coming back through the budget and not filling positions and cutting the budget with unfilled positions.

Mrs. Rowell explained that the departments had the options, they were given their list of vacant positions and there are still some vacant positions. They were given the option to unfund positions not used at this point to help with the cuts some chose that option. Others said they need all their positions and they did it another way, so it was up to the departments discretion.

Mr. Echols wanted to know how many unfilled positions were cut out of this budget.

Mrs. Rowell said there were 22 from the general fund, 3 from the enterprise fund and 1 from special revenue fund, which is a total of 26.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know how much we have collected from illegal dumping as far as someone putting something out there or a person got evicted and put things on side of the road then code enforcement goes out. Do we collect anything.

Mr. Janway noted that he is not in the collection business that would be something maybe answered by Mr. Bryant or Legal. Mr. Janway said they don't fine anybody.

Mr. Wilson said so they just basically once someone gets evicted.

Mr. Janway noted that when it gets to this point it goes to environmental court then we get an environment court order from Legal and we got out and clean it up then submit the invoice back to Legal for collection.

Mr. Echols noted that you guys are out picking up the trash and you are finding debris, what is the connectivity between you and the division that would fine or go out for a code enforcement oversight. Do you all have a process.

Mr. Janway noted that they communicate with code enforcement on a daily basis and take pictures.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know about demolition and once they go out and tear down a house who are we paying our cost with from a private individual to the city's cost.

Mr. Janway explained that once they complete a demolition backfill then they prepare an invoice. They forward the total cost, labor, equipment, inspection, landfill and backfill cost to code enforcement. The only thing that you really see showing up on this expense our out of pocket cost, inspections, air quality monitoring and landfill. That is what you see in demolition on here, but that's not the total cost. The total cost in those invoices are forwarded to code enforcement and in this current budget to date we have taken down 37 structures and we have one more that's ready to go.

Mr. Wilson wanted to thank the men and women that are actually out there doing and wearing all kinds of hats who may be doing demolition one day and on the back of a service truck the next day or moving grass the next day so thank you. He wanted to know if you are fully staffed right now with the crew you need or at the number you need.

Mr. Janway noted that you can always utilize more revenue so he always says you do the best job you can with the resources provided, so they are going to do the best job they possibly can with what we are getting.

Mr. Wilson noted that he appreciates you all, the department heads and employees because he sees them out there all the times wearing different hats. He hopes there is something in the future they can do to make it better not only for you all but for the employees as well.

a) 6000 Airport Fund – Ron Phillips

Mr. Phillips, Airport Director, noted that there are no significant changes in their budget. They are looking at maximizing a nonaeronautical revenue and controlling expenses and we are pretty much locked in with the airlines revenues over the next several years. We are going to be looking at trying to increase revenues through land sales, leases and things of that nature.

Mr. Echols wanted to know on the car rental facility charges if that is a variable number or something contractually that we approve each year.

Mr. Phillips said that we have a basic contract with the car rentals plus 9% whichever is greater, so if they lease more cars we are going to get more money. The rate is set by ordinance.

Mr. Echols noted that we are estimating in 2019 that we are going to have an additional 50 or 60,000 in that variable.

Mr. Phillips said yes.

Mr. Echols wanted to know why the increase in the security services.

Mr. Phillips explained that they are looking at increasing the number of officers that we have at the airport, so we are going to around \$250,000.

Mr. Echols said he is looking at revenue.

Mr. Phillips said in as far as the revenue security we took on ARFF plus we are getting more money from the airlines for ARFF and security.

Mr. Echols noted and we do have estimate on our federal direct grant and we feel confident in a million-dollar increase.

Mr. Phillips said yes and as far as the federal grant they got a call from the state today that they are going to go ahead and fund to the tune of \$600,000 to the design on Taxiway Delta.

Mr. Echols asked if that was over and above the half million-dollar budget.

Mr. Phillips said that is correct.

Mr. Echols said so that will be 1.1 million verse the half million and is that something we want to adopt in.

Mrs. Rowell said it would be a budget amendment.

Mr. Phillips said they got the word that they are writing the grant and it should be before the council within the next month.

b) 6001 Transit Fund – Marc Keenan

Mr. Keenan, General Manager, noted that everything as far as transit as you know we reduced service which included the service we provide on the streets and part of that reducing some of the staffing. Looking at our budget as it stands now the current actual amount and we haven't received all of our federal grant because two weeks ago the actual federal budget was just signed. We don't have our funding because we were part of that budget. Through the resolutions that were on going we were able to receive \$750,000 that we are applying right now for a grant. We should receive that in April or May and that is not reflective in this worksheet.

Chairman Ezernack wanted to know if they had made any projections or have any data on ridership and if we have absorbed back some of the ridership even though we don't have the night service any longer. Is it leveling out or how do you see that happening.

Mr. Keenan said it has leveled out and they projected anywhere from 7 to 10 percent reduction in ridership and it has kind of panned out right now at about 7 or 8 percent reduction in ridership. On the other hand, you look at the revenue side and it has actually increased some even with the reduction in ridership at about 7 or 8, 000 over the past 3 months.

Mr. Echols wanted to know in 2016 what were the transfer in to this division, ballpark. There was a 3.3 million in 2017.

Mr. Keenan said it was 2.9 right at 3 million then it was 3.3 million.

Mr. Echols said but you are projecting only a 2.1.

Mr. Keenan said they actually reduced their operating budget by \$900,000.

Mr. Echols wanted to know how they did that.

Mr. Keenan said because they made the change in the routing and of course some of the positions, like Stacey mentioned, some of those position just wasn't filled because it was not necessary.

Mrs. Rowell noted that transit unfunded 3 and currently this fund had 4 vacant positions and they had the option to fill those but they unfunded 3 positions.

Mr. Echols wanted to know if they had ever considered or analyzed a wagon wheel system for transit verses the transfer to one location and then transfer back to another location. He knows other municipalities do it and he's not an expert on it he just heard the terminology. It is a wagon wheel service where you don't have to go to one place to get back to another place you transfer from one position to the next.

Mr. Keenan said and actually it's going to provide for different terminals to make as transfer points and that mean that the terminals will probably have to be manned by someone. So, if you look at doing wagon wheel you are going to end up having more employees than you would just doing spoke and wheel, what we do.

Mr. Echols asked if we have analyzed the cost to see if there is a financial benefit.

Mr. Keenan said they have not.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know how many full-time and part-time workers.

Mr. Keenan said there is one city part-time worker and what they have done is utilize temp-workers from different agencies within the City. They currently have 42 total employees for Monroe Transit and 4 are temporary and 1 part-time.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know what kind of service the temp provides.

Mr. Keenan explained that they use them as they use their regular workers, they have temp bus operators who are trained and have their CDLs and are able to provide the same type of quality as a regular bus operator provides. At some point when we are freed up to hire, we are going to replace some of the vacant positions that we have and just put them in that position. It is a good opportunity to bring someone in and see if you want to bring them on as a full-time employee, get them trained and everything. It's a really good opportunity to do that.

Ms. Woods noted that it's like a working interview.

Keenan said basically, yes.

c) 6006 Water Fund – Sean Benton

Mr. Benton, Water Distribution Superintendent, noted that he is currently representing the system as a total which would be the distribution and treatment. As far as any increases and on the distribution side we did an increase in our repair water meter account about 50% itself. That was being able to purchase meters, replace or any damaged meters out there in the system or new meters. Currently we are working between two departments with utilities and distribution. Utilities was carrying some of the burden for us by ordering meters and they were going in the hole for us with their budget holding that. We took over that function and brought it over to distribution and that is why that number increased for us in repairing the meters itself as a whole. Everything else is basically standard from year to year and we allocated money on the distribution side to repair distribution lines which is normal repairs, clamps and quick fixes as a whole. If you look at the treatment side one of our main concepts of that budget is chemicals. The chemical budget is basically the same at 1.1 million and they have been running about that range and they have been doing a good job maintaining that

number and still able to get the correct treatment process to protect the water system. Mr. Benton does believe this past year they did a lot of good projects within the system that gave the opportunity to keep a basic budget and didn't have to go up too much. At one point we were looking at chemical cost that could have escalated a lot higher, but last year a project funded at about 2.3 or 4 million at the plant actually helped the plant efficiency for our treatment process in mixing chemicals itself. That number stayed settle even using more chemicals. Education and Training numbers are about the same and that has been very good for them overall. They give all their employees an opportunity for everybody to be certified and trained.

Ms. Woods wanted to know about the bad debt forecast.

Mrs. Rowell said that is just a percentage that they just do a calculation based on the people.

Mr. Woods wanted to know if these are people who don't pay their bills.

Mrs. Rowell said believe it or not they don't pay their bill and we have to expense those off.

Mr. Echols noted that under water distribution you budgeted \$185,000 for overtime, by overtime verse call outs.

Mr. Benton noted that if you look at the trend itself there are a lot of variables in that that creates overtime itself outside of fixing leaks and turning on and off water.

Mr. Echols wanted to know if there are any benefits of running a 24-hour schedule where you have folks working not in normal business hours.

Mr. Benton said they looked at that also and what they did they actually staggered a guy and extending after 11pm but he thinks anything longer than that would be some type of hazard for the employee in certain areas itself at night.

Mr. Echols noted that they are going out anyway.

Mr. Benton explained that what happens is the only one going out is the guy on emergency call and anything outside of that will happen the next business day. Most companies have a cut off time except for emergencies.

Mr. Echols wanted to know how many meters a month do they turn off and on.

Mr. Benton noted that he does not have that number but as far as disconnect the number is high.

Mrs. Rowell noted that they run those numbers on a weekly basis and give to the Mayor and sometimes it is as many as 200 a week.

Mr. Echols noted so about 800 to 1,000 turn offs a month from lack of payment.

Mr. Benton said lack of payment and a small number of maintenance work.

Mr. Echols wanted to know how many meters do we have.

Mr. Benton said there are 23,000 meters in system and 18,500 are residential meters.

Mr. Echols noted that each month we are turning off 5 to 7 percent of our system.

Mr. Benton said that is fair to say, yes.

Ms. Woods noted that the operators are unionize, right

Mr. Benton said that is at the treatment plant, that's correct.

Ms. Woods noted that their contractual agreement if they have to go out you have to pay them a minimum of 4-hour, right.

Mr. Benton said that is correct and that they are unionize on both side.

Ms. Woods noted if you are working up to 11pm and you got something that is an emergency and someone has to go out, do you send one person or two because you are concerned about the area they are going to.

Mr. Benton said it all depends on the issue and someone will go out to access the area to see if it is something that can wait until tomorrow morning during regular hours.

d) 6008 Sewer Fund – Charles Westrom

Mr. Westrom, Sewer Manager, noted that there is a little variation from last year's budget, because of increased expenses at the sewer plant and they have had to stay within budget, be very careful with the sewer collection organization and thanks to Mr. Davis we have been able to stay within budget. Other than that, it has been pretty much the same as it has been.

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Davis, Mr. Westrom and the employees he knows you are out there and the citizens see you too and appreciate what you do.

Mr. Echols asked about depreciation.

Mr. Westrom explained that the depreciation is based on prior purchase of large equipment for repairs at the plant and at the lift stations. That money occurs as a depreciated amount each year and he don't think it has changed very much through the years.

Mr. Richards explained that is a number that accounting calculates toward the end of the year and actually it is on the final budget amendment when we compute what the expense will be for all the capital items that we will track and enter into the system.

Mr. Echols noted that at the end of the day the actual is 9 million in 2017, but we don't budget depreciation.

Mrs. Rowell said we do it at the end with an amendment.

Mr. Echols asked so we make a 4.5 million amendment.

Mr. Richard noted that there is a balance of about 11 million figure that we budget for depreciation.

Mr. Echols asked if this was rolled up into another account right now.

Mr. Richard explained that there is no depreciation expense post until after the end of the fiscal year when we compute that and add all their additions and deletions for capital assets.

Mr. Rowell explained that the reason being if you go out and post a 10-million-dollar entry at the beginning of the year for them and it won't hit until April and it sit out there all year and they are thinking they are under budget because they got this big budget number. Otherwise, they would have to do a whole bunch of calculations and figure out where they are so it just helps everyone to not budget for it until it's time to put it on the books.

e) 7002 Central Shop – Tom Janway
All other funds under the direction of Public Works

Mr. Janway noted that it just repeats the previous year's budget

Mr. Wilson wanted to know if we repair our own equipment or contract it out.

Mr. Janway said they repair the majority of ours and they have several mechanics that do small engines.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know if we lease our equipment or buy.

Mr. Janway noted that we buy and it depend.

Mr. Echols asked if he traditionally try to use the equipment for at least 5 to 10 years.

Mr. Janway noted that we get all the useful life out of it we can.

6.) Planning & Urban Development (PUD) – Jimmie Bryant

Mr. Bryant said they are running on fumes right now.

Mr. Echols noted the increase in salaries and wages in 17/18 are there any more positions.

Mr. Richards noted that they move a grant writer that was under administration.

Mr. Echols on sick time and vacation pay he would like to see a bottom line of what we spent in 2017 and what we are estimating to spend on those two benefits in 2019.

Mrs. Rowell said they are based on day and they earn days so it's really not any more dollars until we have to pay out.

Mr. Echols noted that it is still a benefit and a total of time that they have accumulated over time.

Mrs. Rowell said accrual was done for audit purposes.

Chairman Ezernack noted that they have received some materials discussing the possibility and comparison in different areas in our regions on fees and so forth. Is there an expected time that you are going to come to us with some more?

Mr. Bryant explained that what you received in your packets were comparisons to West Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Ruston etc., and what it references to is that we are lower than all those other entities by far. We currently are not really charging for inspections at all. We lost our chief building official a couple of months ago and that was the resolution you had before you the other day the hiring of Mr. Foy Gadberry to take over the responsibility. Mr. Bryant believes we could generate anywhere from the low end of 60 to as high as 100,000 a year but he is making certain that these comparisons are accurate and that they will work before he brings them to you in an official document. We are not charging anything right now for actual inspection or re-inspections and he thinks that's an avenue we need to take advantage of that we haven't been.

Mr. Echols wanted to know how much permit does this equal a year.

Mr. Bryant didn't have that information with him.

Mr. Echols wanted to know what all subdivisions are you working with.

Mr. Bryant said there is Zoning, Inspections, Code Enforcement and Community Dev.

Mr. Echols asked about fines for something in Code Enforcement.

Mrs. Rowell said that generates fines that are collected back through that process of environmental court.

Mr. Echols noted that those fines roll back through environmental court.

Mrs. Rowell said every dollar, yes.

Mr. Echols noted that 4,000 dollars toward environment court fines last year. Is there a long-range plan to look at how code enforcement assists people and following the current ordinance on the books as it relates to environment court fines?

Mr. Bryant noted that the long-term plan from his perspective and what they have been after, what they have instituted and started issuing curtesy letters to try to get compliance. Since they started that they have had about 15% compliance already which is what we want. We really don't want to fine anyone, we want them to clean or fix their property up. In that short of time it has generated that much activity and that is one of the recommendations that was given to us from the Foundation of Louisiana who came in and did an assessment and gave us a recommendation on improving our code enforcement. The long-term plan is to clean up the city.

Mr. Echols asked Mr. Bryant to get some recommended ordinances to them with some teeth so they can have some compliance.

Mr. Bryant said that is being worked on now.

Ms. Woods said she do appreciate that about the courtesy letters and you see 15% improvement in that, thank you for that we need to send more.

- a) 2001 Community Development Block Grant – Jawun Downs
All other funds under the direction of PUD

Ms. Woods wanted to know how much money is in CDBG.

Mrs. Rowell said their budget is about 563,000.

Ms. Woods wanted to know where these dollars come from.

Mrs. Rowell said they come from Community Development Block Grants and Ms. Downs can tell you what those funds are for.

Mrs. Downs, Director, said those funds are for the rehabilitation of houses and our public service activities as well as our summer youth employment program that we do every summer. They have their public service contracts with Ouachita Council on Aging, the Meals on Wheels Program and OIC.

Ms. Woods asked if they were using any of those dollars with demolition.

Mrs. Downs said they will in the future provided that they have eligible clients to apply.

Ms. Woods asked so there is a process that people need to go through to be eligible to receive funding for that.

Mrs. Downs said there is a process and there are program rules and guidelines that you have to follow or adhere to.

Ms. Woods said on the demolition.

Mrs. Downs said yes, in order to receive demolition funds assistance.

Ms. Woods asked if this same money come out of the \$563,000.

Mrs. Downs said yes.

Mr. Bryant noted to the council that if you have someone that needs or wants to receive funding for that Mrs. Downs is the person they need to see not Code Enforcement.

Mrs. Rowell said also that Mrs. Downs can give you the guidelines and it has to be in a targeted area to apply, because they have a plan that they have to submit every 5 years.

Ms. Woods said so in the plan they have already identified the targeted areas.

Mrs. Downs can give you those areas.

Ms. Woods noted that someone tried to get funds but did not qualify.

Mrs. Downs said you have to apply before they tear down the structure.

Ms. Woods wanted to know what happens if it gets torn down and you didn't know to come to you first and you are receiving a bill and you can't pay your taxes.

Mrs. Downs explained that she has a good working relationship with Code Enforcement and they notify each applicant if they are eligible based on the area that they live in. They are supposed to contact her and they are given her contact information. It is also on the bottom of their letters that if you need demolition assistance you may be eligible. Mrs. Downs office has to do an environmental assessment or review on the property before it is torn down. She cannot put any federal funds toward a property that she has not reviewed first and the applicant Ms. Woods is speaking of came after the fact.

7.) Engineering – Kim Golden

Ms. Kim Golden, City Engineering, noted that in Traffic, so they have 3 divisions two are in the general fund and that is Civil and Traffic. The third division is Project Management and is actually from the Capital Infrastructure Revenue Fund/Street Fund. When the call was made to help fill some of this gap she wants you to know in Civil and Traffic they stepped up and they have had a reduction in head count basically when people retired or left we didn't fill those positions and have now removed them from the budget. In Civil we lost 1 full-time position and in Traffic she eliminated 2.

Chairman Ezernack thanked Ms. Golden for all those projects that have been completed, those still underway and more to come and the efficiencies that you juggle on a lot of different things. We probably got more projects than she remembered in a very long time and they are happy about that and thank you and everyone in your departments.

Ms. Golden noted that it is a team effort and as she looked at what projects they finished in the fiscal year because they have to give that to the auditors. It was a little over 5 million in the previous fiscal year and we are right at 9 million in the current fiscal year, so they are definitely with the efficiencies and producing more project for you guys.

Ms. Woods wanted to know about the signs for no dumping or noise and if that comes out of Traffic.

Ms. Golden said yes and as they looked at measures that could address anticipated deficit and she looked at how many signs like no dumping they are doing like 20 signs a week for no dumping and things like that. They do have a procedure in place to make sure they are not double dipping and they are going where they are supposed to be going. So, yes there is an investment going on in that area.

Ms. Woods asked if she is needing some she just needs to call Traffic or how does that work.

Ms. Golden said either way, if it is a no dumping sign we general work on that with Code Enforcement because they will have the records about whether it is a repeat dumping sign and the two departments work together with each other. We also want to make sure we keep up with the street name signs and any of those you see missing is definitely Traffic and please let us know about those. We have problems with those coming up missing and we work with law enforcement on that and make sure people understand that it is against the law to be in position of a stop, speed or any traffic sign.

Ms. Wood asked about fading signs and she can just call them about it.

Ms. Golden said yes and our crew does zoning on that but all eyes are helpful. If a stop sign is down after hours it needs to be reported immediately and you can report that through MPD.

Ms. Woods asked if there is a sign for noise.

There is a Noise Ordinance and they do have signs for noise.

- a) 2021 Capital Infrastructure
All other funds under the direction of the Engineering Dept.

Mr. Echols wanted to know why the decline in revenues by 1 million.

Mrs. Rowell said sales tax has gone down.

Mr. Echols said that would be about 750,000 if your estimate was 5% decrease in sales taxes, that's only a couple of hundred thousand dollars difference, but he was just wondering. He asked if they were estimating a larger decrease in sales taxes.

Mrs. Rowell said we are actually budgeting the same amount as we had in the current year. They always decrease conservatively anyway so they left it as it is and actually reduced and from 2017 it looks like the actual reductions right in this year and then going forward is flat because we only budgeted about a 1% growth anyway and CIC covers with the debt structure, so it wasn't much to have to cut to reduce that.

BREAK:

- 8.) Legal – Angie Baldwin
All other funds under the direction of the Legal Dept.

Ms. Baldwin, City Attorney, noted that there are no significant changes in their budget.

Mrs. Rowell noted in salaries that at the time they brought in the new assistant city attorney and his salary is reflected at this time under the city attorney section and Ms. Baldwin's is still reflected under the civil division and they will right it in the first budget amendment.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know under the illegal dumping in environment court how much are they collecting.

Ms. Baldwin noted that she would have to check and that is something that is very difficult to prove because there is never a witness to the illegal dumping. If someone does witness it and reports it and they are asked to come and testify they don't want to do that because they are going to be facing the person that they have reported. They have tried to set up cameras and stings with law enforcement but it is really difficult to have the evidence to actually prove who is doing the illegal dumping.

Ms. Woods said if you have the vehicle with the license and you catch them in the act and send the photographs in, is that proof.

Ms. Baldwin said no, they really need the person to testify, if they have photo of person actually doing the dumping possibly. Some of that you get into hearsay evidence and which of course the rules of evidence are relax in Environmental Court. You don't go by a specific code of evidence, but we still have to make sure that it's not all hearsay or the photograph has to be authenticated somehow. The person who took the photograph have to say, "this is the date I saw it, this is what I saw and this is the photograph of whom I saw do it". That's been a problem getting people to work with us to testify.

Ms. Woods said she had someone that sent the photograph in and it was her understanding that the police went out and issued a summons to them.

Ms. Baldwin noted that if the police issues it, it would be in criminal court and that's different.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know if they are getting a lot of lawsuits concerning the Splash Pad.

Ms. Baldwin said they did the first year, a lot of slips and falls and they added additional signage so those have decreased.

9.) Police – Chief Eugene Ellis

All other funds under the direction of the Police Dept.

Chief Ellis, Monroe Police Chief, noted that their budget is pretty routine and there are no significant changes over last year's budget.

Mr. Echols asked based on the salaries and wages from 2017 to where we are budgeting for 2019 how many officers does that constitute.

Chief Ellis said they currently have 122 officers and they are about 8 down and that would give them 130.

Mr. Echols asked if he expected to fill those 8 positions this year, counting those 3 that brought you to that 122.

Chief Ellis said yes.

Mr. Echols wanted to know if the 122 included staff or all in the field.

Chief Ellis said those are all police officers and there are 169 total employees.

Mr. Wilson noted that he appreciates the Chief for the job he is doing and his officers as well, he has really seen a big improvement throughout the community with the officers riding through the community and we appreciate that and the efforts you made to make the changes.

Chairman Ezernack noted that Chief Ellis created a different position within the department and asked him about it.

Chief Ellis explained that it is the Youth Services Coordinator and they are going to consolidate all the youth program into one division and overseen by the Coordinator.

Ms. Woods just wanted to say thank you for coming in and hitting the ground running and doing great things out in the community.

10.) Fire – Bronson Moss

All other funds under the direction of the Fire Dept.

Mr. Moss, Admin. Assistant, noted that there is nothing significant and they are going to make it work.

Mr. Wilson asked if they were planning to do anything with the Orange Street Fire Station.

Mr. Moss said that it is currently under control of the city property and the Fire Department is not doing anything with it and right now it is a storage site.

Chairman Ezernack noted that the Fire Department is going to be doing something with Breard Fire Station as well.

Mr. Moss said that station is in need of a lot and need to be rebuilt, so the Fire Chief has been looking into ways to rebuild that station and working on that now.

Ms. Woods asked they are to rebuild a new one on Breard.

Mr. Moss said to rebuild an existing station and the funding is there.

Mr. Wilson asked if the old fire station on Jackson Street is under you all too.

Mr. Moss explained that it is the same situation as Orange Street.

Ms. Woods asked about the GPS system in the fire trucks and she was understanding that they were having challenges getting from place to place.

Mr. Moss said that he hasn't heard that but he will tell you the status on the mobile data terminals. They do have 4 in operation, they have been field testing them and they are working very well. They have the rest of the tablets in and they are at MIS being configured and will be doing training on those in the next few weeks. They have had good results out of them and they are data information systems that feed information to the firefighter as they are going to the call. It's not just mapping, it's call information.

Mr. Echols asked about the trim in the pension cost average of 8 to 10 percent a year and is the expectation that the pension trend will continue and eventually start to put some significant pressure on your bottom line.

Mr. Moss said it is really hard to tell on the LA Firefighters Retirement System and this year it is remaining the same and a couple of years ago it went down about half a percent, but then it came back up. We do have a few MERS employees and there may be a little increase in that.

11.) Community Affairs – Robert C. Johnson

Mr. Johnson, Comm. Affairs Director, noted that the most significant change in the budget was the Forsythe crew move under Community Affairs.

Chairman Ezernack asked about the golf courses and if there are any increases other than participation other than using that course because it looks like the revenue is considerably down.

Mr. Johnson noted that it seems to be coming up within the last couple of months it is starting to rise. He thinks what has happened overall the course was in such bad shape at one point and know that we have brought on a new director, he has really made a big difference then adding in a superintendent who seems to be very knowledgeable about golf courses. Each week we are starting to see more and more increased play, we have gotten to the place where we work on Monday which at one time we didn't do Mondays.

Ms. Woods wanted to complement the staff at Chennault in that the greens are really looking a lot better and that is evident that the fees and things are starting to increase so thank you for that.

Mr. Echols asked about some of the revenues numbers with different rec. centers and parks you have nominal amounts of moneys that are budgeted and are there any strategies around maximizing usage and revenue where there are concessions, building and any marketing programs or anything that you are doing to go out and enhance those dollars.

a.) 6002 Civic Center Fund

Mr. Johnson said that one plan that he plans to institute and they do have a marketing person who works in the Civic Center and instead of using her for the Civic Center only he plans to utilize her across the board for all of their marketing projects.

Mr. Echols noted that Civic Center Revenues are down several hundred thousand dollars over the last 3 or 4 years.

Mr. Johnson said that they have been and he would like to believe that this year will be a new beginning and we have already started to see progress and change being made.

Mr. Echols noted that his concerns are if they are marketing the Civic Centers and hopefully we are going to have different strategies for these entities then.

Mr. Johnson said he does have ideas that he is starting to interject into not only the Civic Center but the Community Affairs across the board and they are going to try to do things a little bit differently. The problem he is having is he is learning as he goes and hopefully they will progress.

Mr. Echols noted if we are working on different strategies why are we estimating the revenues going down for example on the arena and the theater everything has a 10 to 20 or 30 percent decrease in revenues.

Mr. Johnson noted that you have to take in consideration some of the things that are coming for instance ULM just built a new facility that will hold about 500 people and it is brand new state of the art. We know that's going to cost us some revenue because it's going to cut into what we have and considering Ruston and what they are doing it's also going to cost us some revenue. We have to factor in we are going to be dealing with different entities that are coming up with their own facilities and we have to make the adjustments. We are being conservative.

Mr. Echols asked if we are looking at any strategies they are going to employ marketing and advertising and pushing the facility to drive revenue growth.

Mr. Johnson said yes.

Mr. Echols wanted to know if we were working with consultants or doing it in house.

Mr. Johnson said right now we are doing it in house and trying to get others to understand where you are trying to go. You have got to start somewhere and right now we are doing it in house. If it gets to the point where we feel it's not progressing as well as we would like it to then we may need to look outside and get a professional to do it, but he thinks they can do it.

Mr. Echols asked so estimating after 3 months or 6 months do they look at this for outsourcing strategies or bringing in additional outside.....

Mr. Johnson said he thinks after about 6 months maybe they start to look at the possibility of trying to bring someone else from the outside in too.

Mr. Echols wanted to know what the transfer ins for this division for this year.

Mrs. Rowell said current year is 184,000.

Mr. Richard noted that a lot of these revenue figures are trends that were done back in November and probably not reflected in his plans so it is probably a very conservative number based on that trend.

Mr. Wilson asked about putting metal detectors at Emily P. Robertson Community Center because there is a little violence going on in that area and at Benoit Community Center where a young man got shot.

Mr. Johnson noted that having been in education for 30 year the one thing he learned is every little bit of ground that you give up and he believe if we do great management and people come in and do what they are supposed to do as center worker, directors or whatever he believes we can overcome whatever it is that we are dealing with when it comes to what's happening not just to Emily P, but at Benoit. At Benoit there were mistake made and had we not made them which is what his efforts are to not make those mistakes. Once you cross those grounds the next thing you know we are going to have to have police officers in the center all day 24 hours a day running the centers for us then we are no longer of value. I don't want to give the community the perception that we're scared of our own selves it's just where we live and if we live there and I put police officers and start to get to the point where we've got to have law enforcement there then who's going to cover my kid when he walks home and have to leave the center. Is there an expectation that we got to have a police officer to escort him home? What we are going to have to do as community believers is take responsibility and do our jobs that is what he is asking his people to do, step up and let's do what we are supposed to do and hold people accountable. Mr. Johnson wants you to hold him accountable because

he is going to hold his center people accountable. He is asking to be given that little bit of room to work on this.

Ms. Woods asked about the Saul Adler's parking lot need repaving or patching.

Mr. Johnson said he is going to have to get with Administration and look at this as a necessary expenditure.

Ms. Woods asked Mr. Johnson that he is already starting to see a turn around and revenue increase into the Civic Center.

Mr. Johnson said he is starting to see a lot of interest and he was told today that the Price is Right is coming back, also indoor soccer and Keith Sweat is coming on the 22nd.

Ms. Woods wanted to know how the ticket sales are going, she is hearing buzz in the community.

Mr. Johnson said right now it's slow.

Mayor Mayo noted that there have been a lot of questions about DeltaFest and the City's gotten out of the business of providing expenditures for DeltaFest, however, we are calling this concert Deltafest. We have a separate promoter so it's not going to cost the city about a couple hundred thousand, so it's the same thing without any expense from Civic Center it's coming from the City. Mayor Mayo commended Mr. Johnson for that and the Administration for working on that.

b.) 6003 Purchase Garden & Zoo Fund – Joe Clawson
All other funds under the direction of Community Affairs

Mr. Clawson, Director, noted that one of the big things that should make a huge difference at the Zoo is that the train will be running this summer. One of the things that comes up in general when the people gripe about what the City does and doesn't do. If anyone talks to you about Zoo Society bringing the track and they have a role to play to actually get the train and when people are discussing the City's support for that the train wouldn't be coming back if the City at one point didn't pay out the money to rebuild those bridges. Again, the community through the Zoo Society has a role to play in this but one of the biggest part of bringing that train back was provided by the City.

Chairman Ezernack noted that every year they wanted to know when is the train coming back, so we have now written down that you said it's this summer.

Mr. Clawson said they had to make adjustment with requests from the City to meet the overall budget and point out where we could decrease and for the most part it is pretty similar to what it's been for the past few years. By comparison we have twice as many animals as the Alexandria Zoo and we have more than the Baton Rouge Zoo. The only Zoo in Louisiana that has more animals than Monroe is the Audubon Zoo. We are a community zoo, we are here to serve the community and we did go up in our prices last year and he did not get one complaint about the increase in price. As we improve and add things to the Zoo as needed to help provide for the Zoo.

Ms. Woods said she passed through by the Zoo when they had the Easter Egg Hunt and do you know how many people attended.

Mr. Clawson said around 2,600 paid.

Ms. Woods wanted to know the general admission normally.

Mr. Clawson said it was \$6 for adults, \$4.50 for children age 2 and under free, if you come with 10 people or more you can get group rate which is \$4.50 and \$3.00.

RiverMarket – Myra Gatling

Mr. Echols wanted to know if there were any local or state grants.

Ms. Gatling, Director, we always apply with the State and CBV.

Mr. Echols wanted to know if we get any when we apply.

Ms. Gatling said yes, they get a \$18,000 advertising grant but it does not run through the city fund the CBV manage that, so the money does not come directly to us. We did not apply for the State grant last year but we will this year.

Mr. Echols asked what are we trying to sell by way of sponsorship, wouldn't that be more with the naming rights of the facility.

Ms. Gatling said they sold the title sponsorship for \$12,000.

Mr. Echols asked if there were any others besides that.

Ms. Gatling said they do have some that are advertising trade etc.

Mr. Echols asked what they charge for vendor.

Ms. Gatling said handmade items \$40, food truck \$80, snack food \$40, nonprofit booth only \$20.

Mr. Echols asked if that is considered a rental or vendor application fee.

Ms. Gatling said that the application fee is what a new vendor would pay if they have never been to the market before, so we have fees and rentals.

Ms. Rowell noted that rental is what they pay per week or event.

Chairman Ezernack asked if someone rents the RiverMarket area for an event for reception or something of that nature where does that fall into revenue.

Ms. Gatling said that would be under park rental.

Mr. Echols on events and the revenues that come in for them where is that.

Ms. Gatling said the Downtown Monroe Alliance host those events for programing and fund raising.

Mr. Echols asked if they are a vendor and pay a fee to use the facility.

Ms. Gatling said yes.

Mr. Echols wanted to know where is that revenue.

Ms. Gatling in booth rental

Mr. Echols wanted to know are they sponsoring the whole event.

Ms. Gatling explained that however many restaurants you have or booths that takes up they pay rent for that.

Museum – Evelyn Stewart

Mr. Echols wanted to know how many positions

Mrs. Rowell said there are 3 full-time and 3 part-time.

12.) Administration – Stacey Rowell

All other funds under the direction of the Administration Dept.

Mrs. Rowell noted that one thing she wanted to point out on the pension that they do have notice from MERS that the rate will be going from 24.5% to 26% and we received that notice after the budget had been prepared. The additional expense would be approximately 10,000, so right off the bat we know this budget starts us off 200,000 short.

Mr. Richards said that is city wide and not all general fund.

Mr. Rowell said other than that the Administration did its part in trying to cut and trim and also tried to true up some numbers based on trends.

13.) City Expense

Mr. Echols asked about the group retirement insurance from 2017 to where it is in 2018 and the projection for 2019 and any expectations.

Mr. Richards noted an error that should be 1830 and not 1330.

Mrs. Rowell noted the number of retirees we basically have.

Chairman Ezernack noted that this wraps up tonight's hearing and she reminded everyone that the Public Hearing and Final Adoption is going to be at the Meeting on April the 10th, so if you have question that you would like to get more information on between now and then Stacey and her budget officer Mr. Richards will be able to answer those questions. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Rowell for the time she has given to the Council in the individual meetings and answering questions, it was very helpful. The format tonight is a little different than before and it has been effective and she appreciates all the good information especially the noted budget was extremely helpful and we all appreciated that.

Mrs. Rowell thanked everybody and they are going to keep improving the process.

The Council members thanked the Administration for all their hard work on the budget.

WRAP-UP:

Public hearing & final adoption of budget must occur at the April 10, 2018 Council Meeting. (City Charter, Article V, Sec. 5-01)

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. upon motion of Mr. Echols and seconded by Ms. Woods.

Gretchen Ezernack
Chairman

Carolus S. Riley
Council Clerk

For extended details on the council meeting please call the Council Clerk Monday-Friday at 318-329-2252 to schedule an appointment to listen to the minutes.