

A. CALL TO ORDER:

A Regular Meeting of the Troy City Council was held on Monday, March 9, 2015, at City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Mayor Slater called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL:

- a) Mayor Dane Slater
Jim Campbell
Steve Gottlieb
Dave Henderson
Ellen Hodorek
Ed Pennington
Doug Tietz

C. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

C-1 Potential Library Millage Renewal Question

Mayor Slater called the meeting to order and reminded the audience that this is only the first of the study sessions that will be called on the topic of the Library millage.

City Manager Kischnick introduced the topic and commented that the Library is one part of the discussion that began with the y Financial Ideas Team (FIT) discussions.

Cathy Russ, Library Director, discussed the topic utilizing a presentation that is available on the City of Troy website.

Aileen Dickson, City Clerk, discussed the timeline for a ballot question to be placed on the November, 2015, ballot.

Ms. Russ continued the presentation discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Campbell asked if there is a plan to fix the water issues in the basement of the Library. Ms. Russ answered that the basement is three-quarters of the way repaired, so the funds are not included in this discussion for future budgets.

Council Member Henderson asked Ms. Russ to discuss the costs associated with e-books versus hardcopy books. Ms. Russ explained that there is a substantial difference in costs between e-books, which are about \$89 per copy, and hardcopies, which are about \$15 per copy. She continued that e-books are more popular and require repurchase after a set number of checkouts, so costs are high. She said these costs make up the library materials budget. Ms. Russ explained that e-books do not incur library fines because on the due date, they are removed from the users' devices automatically.

Council Member Hodorek asked Ms. Russ to discuss the sustainability of staff at Troy Public Library versus staffing at other libraries. Ms. Russ commented that compared to other libraries, it is difficult to accurately compare because of different staffing needs for each community and

each library. She said that at Troy Public Library, they have mostly supervisors as full-time staff, and it is difficult to groom part-time staff members as a part of succession planning due to the workload on the part-time staff members. She commented that Troy Public Library provides great training and experience to part-time employees, but then those employees have an easier time finding full-time employment elsewhere. Mr. Kischnick commented that the Troy Library staff is outstanding; however, the economic environment continues to be a struggle for all municipal departments and finding the balance is crucial. Mayor Slater asked if the staffing levels for a 6-day library working today and projecting out 8 years, will the funding still be sufficient. Ms. Russ answered that the funding currently is adequate. She said she has part-time positions that she would like to see made full-time, but the Library is operating well at the present time even if it is never fully staffed. Council Member Tietz commented that the number of library users seems to be continually increasing every year, and it would be difficult to maintain the current staff level with increased users. Ms. Russ said that keeping the balance is very important, and currently that does not involve outreach in the community, but is focused more on maintaining current services.

Council Member Pennington asked if the current 64% of households who hold library cards is who actually uses the library. Philip Kwik, Assistant Library Director, explained that cardholders who have not used their cards in three years are deleted from the system. He said that some cardholders don't actually check out materials but use materials at the Library, databases or attend programs.

Mayor Slater asked if the budget would have the funding available to finance the Library for 6 days from the General Fund. Mr. Kischnick answered that there are a few concepts to answer that question. First, the FIT Team provided data that shows that there is not money in the General Fund to fund the Library completely. He said that the two options discussed in the presentation are real options that will be sustainable. He said that the General Fund has many other pressures such as roads, and the FIT Team concurred that it is not possible to fund the Library out of the General Fund.

Mayor Slater said that now 5 years later we are making the same decision that we made 5 years ago, and it was a good decision then. He would like to see if there is another scenario that would provide Friday service. Ms. Russ said the scenario shown in the presentation would work today.

Council Member Tietz referenced the handout and asked if that was keeping staff status quo at a 6-day library. Ms. Russ answered that the handout references a 6-day library at status quo staffing.

Council Member Henderson asked what if the millage renewal was on the November ballot and it failed. Mr. Kischnick answered that there would be a deficit that could only be covered by General Fund Balance, but covering ongoing expenses is against the Fund Balance policy.

Mayor Slater asked if Ms. Russ receives a lot of questions about Friday service. Ms. Russ said that she receives one or two emails a quarter asking for Friday service. Council Member Henderson asked if other libraries are outside of their cities' budgets. Ms. Russ answered that about half the libraries shown in the presentation are city departments.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jim Werpetinski- Commented that he was on the FIT Team and he recalled it being unanimous to maintain a 6-day library.
- Jack Cushing- Commented that the Troy Public Library is a wonderful place to work but he has heard of many part-time employees leaving for higher paying jobs and we need the millage.
- Edna Abraham- Commented on the millage cap and appreciates the discussion about the Library millage.

E. ADJOURNMENT:

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 6:56 PM.

Mayor Dane Slater

M. Aileen Dickson, CMC
City Clerk