

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

A Special Budget Study Meeting of the Troy City Council was held on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at City Hall, 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Mayor Slater called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

- (a) Mayor Dane Slater
- Edna Abraham
- Ethan Baker
- Jim Campbell
- Dave Henderson
- Ellen Hodorek
- Mayor Pro Tem Ed Pennington

**C. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

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**C-1 Proposed Fiscal Year 2016/17 Annual Budget and Three-Year Budget**

(Budget is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, Troy Public Library and on the City's website <http://www.troymi.gov/budget/>)

City Manager Brian Kischnick opened the discussion of the 2016/17 Annual Budget and Three-Year Budget presentation. He discussed the Manager's Message portion of the Budget document.

City Assessor Nino Licari discussed the taxable value history from 2004 to 2016 and the assessed value ratio history from 1953 to 2016.

Tom Darling, Director of Financial Services, discussed funded plans for employees and retirees.

Mr. Kischnick reviewed the Fund Balances in the Major **Streets**, Local Streets and Refuse Funds. He then opened the subject of the General Fund.

City Clerk Aileen Dickson discussed the election inspectors expenditures for elections in Troy.

Police Chief Mayer discussed the budgetary contributions to community organizations.

Kurt Bovensiep, Public Works Manager, discussed tree lighting along the Big Beaver Corridor. He also discussed the funding of the dog park.

Mr. Kischnick discussed the Capital Fund and Unassigned Fund Balance in the Capital Fund.

Bill Huotari, Deputy City Engineer, discussed road projects planned for major roads in 2016-2017. Mr. Bovensiep discussed road projects planned for local roads in 2016-2017. Mr. Kischnick highlighted some of the improvements completed from 2012 to 2015.

Steve Pallotta, Director of Building Operations, discussed the replacement of the roof at the Nature Center that is in progress.

Fire Chief Dave Roberts discussed the funding budgeted for the replacement of Fire Station 4.

Chief Mayer discussed funding budgeted for upgrades in the Police Department gun range.

Mr. Pallotta discussed funding budgeted in the 2017-2018 budget for replacement of the roof of the 52-4 District Court building located next to City Hall.

Mr. Kischnick introduced the 2016 Strategies adopted by City Council.

Stephanie Fleischer, Marketing Coordinator, discussed funding budgeted for the redesign of the City website.

Maggie Hughes, Management Analyst, discussed funding budgeted for recycling elements and LED lighting in city facilities.

Mr. Bovensiep discussed funding budgeted for linking the civic center campus with a trail and pathway system.

Ms. Hughes discussed funding budgeted for the pedestrian crosswalk and transportation shelters on Big Beaver Corridor at Automation Alley.

Mr. Kischnick discussed funding budgeted for a market study and for developing a concept plan for the redevelopment of the civic center property.

Mayor Slater opened the discussion for questions from City Council Members.

Council Member Campbell said that he thinks that \$2 million is a lot of money for a trail and pathway system that residents have said they don't want in the past. Mr. Kischnick said that the budget is \$1 million. Mayor Slater said that he remembers when City Council used to put away \$1 million per budget year for the purpose of funding a trail and pathway system. He said he remembers when residents wanted trails and pathways through the city and when City Council had to use that money for other expenditures during the recession. He said that he understands the frustration but he believes it is still an important plan to keep in the budget. He said he still hears enthusiasm in the community for trails such as near the future dog park. He said he thinks this is money well invested. Council Member Baker said that he likes the idea of trails and pathways but struggles with this plan that doesn't connect to enough areas. He said that he doesn't agree with spending money for small portions without having a bigger idea for the end result. Mayor Slater said there is a master plan. Mr. Bovensiep said that the trails and pathways master plan from 2009 does contain the proposed pathway budgeted in 2016-2017. Mayor Slater said that we could again begin saving money for trails this year and get started on the trails plan since we can only do a small portion each year. He said that if we complete a small portion each year, eventually we will achieve the master plan. Mayor Pro Tem Pennington said this trail in the 2016-2017 budget is a great start to master plan for trails. Mayor Slater said that we have heard for years from residents near civic center campus that they want a trail that connects to the campus. Council Member Hodorek said that the walkable trails trend is in high demand for the older and the younger populations in Troy. She said that

the more walkability we have, the more valuable our city becomes. Council Member Abraham said that this plan seems complementary to the clustering discussion from this past Monday's joint meeting with the Planning Commission. She said that this is a logical next step for us. Council Member Henderson said that a million dollars seems like a lot of money to spend on a speculative plan for that area when the dog park isn't built yet. He said he would like to see the dog park built and how it is used before spending a million dollars on a trail. Mayor Slater said that we expect the dog park to be completed this year. He said that City Council has a responsibility to pursue items that residents list at the top of their list of what they'd like to see the City accomplish. Mayor Slater said there is a consensus of City Council to move forward with this expenditure for the trail.

Council Member Henderson asked why both the expenditures for the Nature Society and the Historical Society were increased this year when both of those expenditures were meant to be temporary assistance to those organizations. Mr. Darling said that last year or the year before the expenditure for the Historical Society was increased but there is no increase this year for the Nature Society. Mayor Slater asked why the personal services expenditure is increased for the Historical Society. Mr. Darling answered that the increase is for the grounds maintenance workers. Mr. Bovensiep clarified that the City is still responsible for grounds maintenance and City employees perform that function. Mr. Kischnick said that the museum and nature center are assets of the City. He said that the Historical Society has taken on a monumental task of caring for and advancing the museum. He said that he believes the increase is justified.

Lorraine Campbell, Director of the Historical Society, discussed the income and expenses for the Society from 2014 to the 2016-2017 budget as well as the operational management summary for the Society. Mayor Slater commented that it was a goal at the beginning to ween the Historical Society and Nature Society off of City contributions but he believes these two groups are passionate about their missions and he thinks it's important to help them. Council Member Hodorek said that she supports the proposed funding budgeted for both organizations. Mayor Pro Tem Pennington said he supports the proposed funding budgeted for both organizations. Council Member Henderson said that he understands the aspects of why we are funding them but he wants to know the end game of when the increases will end. Council Member Abraham said that she supports the funding budgeted for both organizations and said that we are making a wise investment by providing funding. Mayor Slater asked if Mr. Bovensiep would investigate lawn and weed treatments at the Museum.

Mayor Pro Tem Pennington commented that he noticed that the civic center redevelopment budget increased from \$100 thousand to \$200 thousand. Mr. Kischnick said that he is very comfortable with the funding budgeted after discussions with Mr. Farrell and Mr. Gibb and the initial \$100 thousand amount was a preliminary amount. Mr. Kischnick said that there will be progress made this calendar year on developing a plan. Council Member Hodorek said she has been aware of Mr. Farrell's connection with Troy for a long time and she knows he is passionate about the City of Troy's future. Mayor Slater said that we are setting money aside for improvements and repairs on buildings on the civic center campus but are we putting good money into bad buildings. Mayor Pro Tem Pennington said that he is looking forward to seeing progress on the walkability and trails plans.

Council Member Hodorek asked if the City Clerk is prepared to address the removal of straight party voting from the Presidential Election ballot. City Clerk Dickson answered that

Council Member Baker asked if the east entrance to City Hall really needs to be changed or do we really just need a person to answer questions at the east entrance. Mr. Kischnick said that the first step will be to locate a staff member at the entrance, then see what the plan for the civic center will be before spending a large amount of money on remodeling the building. He said he believes that this budgeted amount is a good amount but this is a budget.

Council Member Henderson asked if the Kiwanis Club is still contributing to the lights along Big Beaver. Mayor Slater answered that they are no longer involved so the City is paying for the entire expenditure.

Council Member Henderson asked if there will be a mobile app for the new City website. Ms. Fleischer answered that a mobile app will be part of the website redesign.

Mayor Slater asked if the General Fund Fund Balance depletion is just a conservative estimate. Mr. Kischnick answered that the graph in the presentation shows a conservative estimate based on projections but that he is not concerned about what the projections show.

Mayor Slater asked about the Personnel Summary where it shows less than 1 in a position. Mr. Darling answered that when a position is part-time or divides time between two departments that creates a true allocation of hours to that department.

Council Member Hodorek commented that when determining the Fund Balance Policy, City Council took into consideration the AAA bond rating for the City and the financial impacts of the Policy especially considering the millage rate cap in the City Charter. She said she wants to remind everyone that the bond rating is a source of pride for all of us.

Mayor Slater said there is a consensus of City Council that City Administration can go forward with the City Budget as presented tonight.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Evan Agnello	Resident - Spoke supporting a dirt trail that is less expensive near the dog park instead of spending \$1 million on a paved trail; supports an online kiosk at the east entrance along with the staff member at that entrance; supports a website redesign but does not think the City needs an app.
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**E. ADJOURNMENT:**

The Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:03 PM.

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Mayor Dane Slater

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M. Aileen Dickson, MMC  
City Clerk