



**CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY**  
**BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
 Regular Session

**10/26/2021**  
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**ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER**

- The Board of Aldermen of the City of Grain Valley, Missouri, met for a Budget Workshop on October 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jan Reding Community Room and Lecture Hall at the Grain Valley High School
- The meeting was called to order by Mayor Johnston

**ITEM II: ROLL CALL**

- City Clerk Jamie Logan called roll
- *Present: Bass, Cleaver, Headley, Knox, Mills, Stratton*
- *Absent:*

-QUORUM PRESENT-

**ITEM III: DISCUSSION**

- 2022 Fiscal Year Budget
- Mr. Murphy stated there were a couple of follow up items from the first budget meeting last Thursday
  - 1) Fund Totals showing the merit increases with their breakdown across the funds if the max 5% level & LAGERS and Fund Balance breakdown
  - 2) The current LAGERS level is L-7 and the multiplier is 1.5%
    - The two levels surrounding communities have are: L-12-1.75% & L-6-2% with the retirement benefit formula as: Years of service x multiplier x final monthly salary
    - Majority of surrounding competing cities are at the L-6 level; One City is at L-12
    - The type of employees the city would like to retain are those that would be loyal and long-term employees at the city & they would be the ones to benefit most as this is a long-term benefit
  - Alderman Bass requested more clarification on the graphs/charts; the charts show the breakdowns by fund and the graph is another presentation of the same information
  - Alderman Knox stated he was part of the LAGERS program & feels it wouldn't do the employee justice to not go to the L-6 level as this makes for a good retirement benefit
  - Alderman Headley asked where all of this would leave the reserve fund; it would still be well over the 25% threshold required by our policy

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT**  
 Mayor Chuck Johnston  
 Alderman Shea Bass  
 Alderman Tom Cleaver  
 Alderman Bob Headley  
 Alderman Rick Knox  
 Alderman Darren Mills  
 Alderman Jayci Stratton

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT**

**STAFF OFFICIALS PRESENT**  
 City Administrator Ken Murphy  
 Chief James Beale  
 Finance Director Steven Craig  
 Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Davies  
 Community Development Director Mark Trosen  
 City Clerk Jamie Logan



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- Alderman Knox stated he felt the LAGERS is a big incentive and needs to be done for the employees
- Mr. Murphy stated the 5% merit increase is a year-by-year review and as the budget allows and reiterated the board is not agreeing to a 5% budget for increases for future years
- Alderman Cleaver asked what the YTD numbers are; Mr. Murphy shared the numbers are to 9/30/21 and it was trended to the end of the year and all were trending in a good direction
- Alderman Headley asked if we benefited as we grew in population in the transportation budget; fuel tax /revenue projections were estimated the best they could be as the census is only every 10 years and updated to the best as they could project
- Alderman Headley asked about the park project/playground; he asked what happens if we don't receive the grant to fund part of the project; if that occurs, they will regroup to decide if the project should be modified, pushed off, etc. and those funds would stay in the park fund if that occurs
- Mr. Davies stated this would replace both playground areas and make them ADA compliant; the decision regarding the grant has been pushed back to January by those providing the grant funds
- Mr. Murphy clarified a question related to police vehicles; there is currently 1 car per day officer and 1 car per night shift officer and cars aren't as a rule running 24 hours a day and if we did this with all police vehicles it would speed up the replacement program & fleet maintenance needs
  - Alderman Stratton asked what it costs for a new patrol car; Chief Beale shared \$68,000 per vehicle once all the equipment is added to the vehicle
  - Mr. Murphy stated some vehicles are pushed down to the SROs and then anything else goes to auction
  - If only replacing the 2 cars per year, the equipment can be moved over from the old vehicle and doesn't need replaced reducing the cost a little
    - Alderman Knox shared per his past experience, he cautioned to push off purchasing new cars when needed as the repairs can add up and it can be a larger expense later
  - Alderman Knox asked if we had the signal changing equipment for officers in their cars as he observed issues over the weekend and people did not yield to the officers running lights and sirens; suggested adding to the list of equipment for the future
- Mr. Murphy summarized the meeting and the next steps and need their input on the following:
  - Merit Increases up to 5%

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- LAGERS changes as there is a process with LAGERS before that could be implemented
- Additional officers (without a permanent revenue source in place) and if the board wanted to move forward as well due to potential timelines for a ballot issue in the future for the Use Tax
- Alderman Mills asked if the use tax would not be needed until 2024; Mr. Murphy stated technically yes, but it would need to be in place first with an election, etc.
- Mayor Johnston stated if a city property was sold, it could help fund; and Alderman Stratton said it still isn't a permanent source of funding
- Alderman Headley has concerns about doing all of these things right now if it would weaken where the city's position on reserves is; 70% still in reserves; police items would come out of general fund; the 70% is if all came from General Fund; Alderman Headley also stated there are the additional funds (ARPA funds) that need to be decided by the board once the staff presents that budget and this will be 1 of 2 payments; cannot use those funds to add staff and can only be used for positions as of January 1, 2020
- Alderman Headley feels any reserve funds should be put to a good use as no one knows what the future holds; Mr. Murphy states that is the caution in signing up for something without a permanent revenue source in place; Mr. Murphy stated the City is in a fairly strong base of businesses as we saw during COVID; and shared having the grocery store has been helpful towards that
- Alderman Stratton would like to entice those businesses that will help the City stay in a position like this
- Mr. Murphy stated the ordinance associated will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of November and 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of December
  - Alderman Stratton asked if they are voting on these 3 items; the budget will be approved before the performance reviews happen, LAGERS needs to get moving if they want to pursue that; if it is a ballot issue, they will need to know that for the future
- Alderman Stratton would like to abstain from voting on these issues
- Alderman Headley would like reserves by fund if the higher version of LAGERS and merit increases are put in there; Mr. Murphy stated they won't know LAGERS official numbers until the process is moving along and the actuaries have reviewed; Mr. Murphy knows it is 45-day period for public comment; Mr. Craig stated the study takes 4 weeks, there is 1 study per plan at no cost
- The board stated they were okay moving forward with the LAGERS study and Merit increase authorization
- Mayor Johnston would like to move forward with a use tax; the state passed theirs and now each city has to pass a use tax as well; the board would like to pursue a

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use tax, but they would need to start marketing it and why we need it as well as explain the hard costs to citizens of how to fund new officers

**ITEM IV: ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Jamie Logan  
 City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

Minutes approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chuck Johnston  
 Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

non-official

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