

**Barnesville City Council
Special Meeting
January 23, 2009**

Mayor Dahnke called this special meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Present were Mayor Dahnke and council members Merlin Strom, Jeremy Krause, Larry Davis, Jr., Roger Cooper and Del Ellefson. Absent was Council member Chad Hagen. Others in attendance were City Attorney John Shockley, City Clerk Jeri Reep, Main Street Director Theresa Olson, Sr. Accountant Laurie Schell, Ambulance Manager Jon Yeske, Public Works Director Dave Riddering, EDA Director Karen Lauer, TEC Coordinator Guy Swenson and Pam Aakre from the Record Review.

Mayor Dahnke next asked City Clerk Jeri Reep to take roll call. The next item on the agenda was the pledge of allegiance. All rose to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Dahnke stated that there were only two items on the agenda. The first item on the agenda was the 2009 budget review. Mayor Dahnke stated that there are possible budget cuts to the LGA reduction that Governor Plawenty is proposing. Mayor Dahnke stated that we do not have the determined amount of budget cuts yet, but should have a preliminary number on Tuesday, January 20th. Council member Del Ellefson asked department heads to look at ways to reduce their budget by 3%, and hopefully we can add the cuts back into the budget at a later date.

Public Works Supt. Dave Riddering asked if this 3% reduction is for the total operating budget, that the present contracts can't be touched. Mr. Riddering stated that he did not think he could find a 3% reduction in his budget.

Council member Del Ellefson stated that it was the most fair to all departments, asking each department head to look for ways of cutting their budget.

TEC Coordinator Guy Swenson asked council members at what point do we worry about service to customers. Mr. Swenson stated that the quality of service is very important, and that we may lose customers if the customer service isn't there for the customers.

Council member Jeremy Krause stated that their goal is to reduce the budget by \$200,000.00.

TEC Coordinator Guy Swenson questioned when does service become an issue. Mr. Swenson stated that he has wanted to add a technician for years, and that the transfers from his budget keep getting higher. Mr. Swenson stated that we need to keep the reserve going.

Mayor Dahnke stated that the department heads are going to have to prioritize. Mayor Dahnke asked that department heads make a listing of budget cuts by Friday, January 30th and give to City Clerk Jeri Reep.

Public Works Supt. Dave Riddering stated that this will be the third round of budget cuts. TEC Coordinator Guy Swenson stated that the cost of raw goods continues to go up, the money has to come from somewhere, and that the council can't keep taking from the enterprise funds. Mr. Swenson stated that he wanted to go on record to being opposed to the budget cuts.

Mayor Dahnke stated the next item on the agenda was the City Administer position profile. City Clerk Jeri Reep informed council members that Sharon Klumpp with Springsted Inc. had a few questions for the council. City Clerk Jeri Reep next called Ms. Klumpp, and by via telephone, Ms. Klumpp asked questions of the council. Ms. Klumpp asked if council members had a chance to review the Position Profile. Ms. Klumpp also was suggesting that the salary range be \$75,000.00. Council members stated that they wanted to stay with the salary of \$70,000.00. Ms. Klumpp and council members tentatively scheduled March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. for council to select candidates to interview, and tentatively scheduled interviews for April 9-10, 2009. Ms. Klumpp had no further questions for the council.

01-23-09-01 Motion by Mr. Ellefson and second by Mr. Cooper to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Attest:

Jeri Reep
City Clerk

Fred Dahnke
Mayor