

**Barnesville City Council
Special Meeting
September 3, 2014**

Mayor Gene Prim called this special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Council members Betty Strom, Larry Davis, Jr., Jason Rick, Richard Sylvester and Cathy Enstad. Absent was council member Goedtke. Others in attendance were, City Administrator Mike Rietz, John Shockley with Ohnstad Twichell, City Clerk Jeri Reep, Finance Director Laurie Schell, Public Works Supt. Trevor Moen, Ed Dorsett, Brad Cook, and Jacob Underlee with the Record Review.

Mayor Prim called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Prim stated there was only one item on the agenda, to discuss the 2015 preliminary budget.

Council member Goedtke arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Ed Dorsett with Dorsett & Associates next discussed with council members the health insurance rates for the city employees. Mr. Dorsett stated that there are five sources of health coverage, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Medica, Health Partners, Preferred One, and Sanford. The city currently pays for 80% coverage for family coverage, and 100% for single coverage. Mr. Dorsett stated that he will not have numbers available until October 1st for the new rates. Mr. Dorsett stated that the Lakes Country Coop has agreed to give an extension of time for commitment for staying with the coop for health insurance coverage.

Mayor Prim requested Mr. Dorsett to obtain a written agreement with Lakes Country Coop allowing the City of Barnesville an extension for health insurance coverage.

Council members had no further questions for Mr. Dorsett.

Mayor Prim stated the next item on the agenda is to discuss the preliminary budget. Mayor Prim asked council members if they had any questions on the budget.

Mayor Prim stated he had questions on the property taxes, why we had an expense for the Moorhead attorney. City Administrator Mike Rietz stated the Moorhead attorney expense is for prosecution services.

Council member Rick questioned the insurance, the Val Ed income and the liquor store revenues declining.

Council member Sylvester questioned if we know where the money is being spent, salaries in the parks and street department, and the reserve balances.

Council member Strom questioned if employees time is allocated on the time sheets.

Mayor Prim stated he would like to see the proposed levy be no more than a 5% to 6% increase for the final budget.

Council members had no further questions on the proposed budget.

Mayor Prim next discussed the downtown parking. Mayor Prim stated he would like to see included in the budget \$10,000 for a parking lot in the Farmers Coop location if the building is taken down.

Mayor Prim also questioned if the city should be looking at bonding for some proposed projects in the future. Some of the projects mentioned were the Blue Eagle Lake project, infrastructure for the west side of town, and infrastructure for new development.

Council member Sylvester stated he thought the proposed salary increases were too high, would like to see the preliminary budget below 10%.

Mayor Prim asked if there were any more comments for the preliminary budget. There were none.

Mayor Prim adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Attest:

Jeri Reep
City Clerk

Eugene Prim
Mayor