

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2016
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by President Garnes at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Sheila Cherry, Larry Dordea, James Edwards, Julie Jakmides, Cindy King, Donald Kline, and Roger Rhome present.

President Garnes stated the purpose of the special meeting.

Mayor Andreani explained the need for the special meeting to review the large amount of information from the Auditor regarding the proposed budget without consuming a lot of Council time in a regular meeting.

Auditor Knowles distributed to Council members copies of Exhibit A for Ordinance 11-16 (the 2016 annual budget) and began reviewing the line items contained therein. It was noted that there were some problems with missing pages in at least a few of the packets of material distributed to Council members and Auditor stated he would e-mail a complete packet to each member of Council.

Councilman Edwards questioned the Health care costs passed on to the employees. Auditor Knowles explained how the co-pay system works

Councilwoman Jakmides questioned the participation by bargaining units in the new health care system that was being negotiated the collective bargaining agreements. Auditor Knowles explained that enough units are currently participating to have the insurance benefits review board formed.

Councilman Dordea questioned whether other administrative options had been explored. Dordea noted that OPEC is an administrator used by Hartville as of late and it has resulted in significant administrative costs savings. Mayor Andreani explained that the contract is put out for bid periodically and the expiration is coming due to re-bid the contract at the end of this year

Councilman Dordea questioned the expenditures for the Iron Horse Trail. Safety Service Director Dreger explained that expenditure is necessary to receive the grant that is coming to cover costs. Further explained that the expenditure is pushed out until later in the year so that if things are too tight it might get extended to later in the year or next year.

Councilwoman Jakmides questioned some of the equipment of the parks. Auditor Knowles explained how departments prioritize the "wish list" they submit based on need. Auditor Knowles further explained it is based on cost of repairs to keep an old item operational versus purchasing a new model.

Councilman Dordea stated that it is obvious that there is not enough carry over and that we need to focus on increasing revenue. Dordea questioned if the Auditor had an opportunity to put numbers together indicating the revenue that would be generated by a ¼ percent income tax increase or a levy. Auditor Knowles stated that he had not.

Councilwoman Jakmides asked when the deadline for submitting the budget was and if there was time to hold further meetings on the issue. Auditor Knowles explained that the budget needs to be approved by the end of March so there are still a couple of weeks before it becomes critical.

Motion and second to adjourn the special meeting of City Council. Voice Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT: Noting no further business presented or discussed with Council, President Garnes adjourned the special meeting of City Council at 6:50 P.M.

ARTHUR GARNES, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

GERARD T. YOST, COUNCIL CLERK