

**CITY OF EXCELSIOR**  
**Hennepin County, Minnesota**

**MINUTES**

**Special City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 28, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Ruehl called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Councilmembers present: Fulkerson, Miller, and Mayor Ruehl. Councilmembers absent: Caron and Olson. Also present: City Manager Luger and City Clerk Johnson.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Fulkerson moved, Miller seconded, to approve the Agenda as presented. The vote on the motion was 3/0.

**3. 2012 Budget and Tax Levy**

**a. Presentation of 2012 Budget & Tax Levy**

Luger said that at the September 6, 2011 Council meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution to set the preliminary tax levy at 5%. The Council held a public meeting on the budget at the October 17, 2011 Council meeting. At the November 1, 2011 Work Session, the Council reduced the proposed levy from 5% to 3.31%. The Council further reduced the proposed levy from 3.31% to 0% at the November 21, 2011 Council Work Session.

Tonight's meeting is held to give the public an opportunity to see the 2012 Budget and provide comments. The Council is scheduled to adopt the 2012 Budget at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. If the budget is not finalized at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council will need to finalize it at the December 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The final date to certify the 2012 Levy is December 20, 2011.

There have been a number of budget items reduced since October to get to the 0% levy increase. There were significant reductions made to the City Planner salary (\$13,400), health insurance (\$10,000), telephone (\$1,775), city administration (\$1,700), elections (\$1,100), Heritage Preservation Commission training (\$1,100), and capital outlay (\$1,000). Over the last four years, the City has made some significant reductions to keep the levy down. Areas that have had significant reductions include: City Council training, staff salaries, staff training and conferences, salaries for part-time employees, legal fees, meeting expenses, printing and publishing, capital outlay, and lifeguard services.

**3. 2012 Budget and Tax Levy**

**a. Presentation of 2012 Budget & Tax Levy – (Continued)**

Getting the levy from 5% to 0% required various reductions throughout the budget, delaying the planning for City Hall, and having a negative contingency of 1% which staff anticipates being able to find throughout the year with a potential restructuring of City Hall.

Luger showed a pie chart to show the changes in the General Fund revenues and expenditures between years 2011 and 2012. Also shown was a bar chart with a comparison of expenditures for year 2009 through 2012 for general government, public safety, public works, parks and recreation, miscellaneous, and other financing uses.

The Council and staff discussed how there have been major cuts over the years to minimize the impact of the loss of Local Government Aid and how it will be difficult to restore any of these items without raising taxes.

The Council and staff talked about how disappointed they were that there were no residents in attendance for the meeting, especially in light of the Council having a proposed Charter Amendment before them requesting more transparency by the City on financial affairs. The Council has specifically held this meeting, even though it is not required by law, to give residents an opportunity to learn and comment on the City's proposed budget for next year.

**b. Public Questions and Comments**

No one was present.

**c. Council Direction**

The Council directed staff to prepare the budget as currently proposed with the 0% tax levy increase, and place the 2012 Budget and Tax Levy on the Council's December 5, 2011 meeting agenda for approval.

**4. Adjournment**

Miller moved, Fulkerson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.  
Motion carried 3/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Johnson  
City Clerk