

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council Chambers
County-City Building**

**November 16, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

1. Roll Call.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

2. Minutes and Actions Taken at the Special Finance Committee Meeting of October 27, 2015.
3. Public hearing on the General Local Municipal Budget for 2016.
4. Resolution Adopting the Budget for the City of Stevens Point for the Year 2016.
5. Resolution Appropriating Necessary Funds for the City of Stevens Point for 2016 and Levying the Tax Rate for the Year 2015.
6. Resolution Providing for Writing Special Assessments and Special Charges into the Tax Roll for 2015.
7. Adjournment.

Any person who has special needs while attending this meeting or needs agenda materials for this meeting should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure a reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at (715) 346-1569 or by mail at 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Copies of ordinances, resolutions, reports and minutes of the Council meetings are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection during the regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

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**SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 27, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M.
PORTAGE COUNTY LIBRARY – PINERIES ROOM – 1001 MAIN STREET**

PRESENT: Alderpersons Phillips, Van Stippen, and Kneebone

EXCUSED: Alderpersons Slowinski and Patton

ALSO

PRESENT: C/T Ladick; Mayor Wiza; City Attorney Beveridge; Clerk Moe; Ald. Morrow, Ryan, Mrozek, McComb, Oberstadt; Directors Lemke, Schrader, Schatschneider; Deputy C/T Freeberg; Human Resource Manager Jakusz; Interim Police Chief Skibba; Fire Chief Finn; City Planner Kearns; Nate Enwald; Brandi Makuski; Barb Jacob; Sue Hall; Dave Wicz; Jeff Bahling; Liz McDonald

ITEM #1 – REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET.

C/T Ladick reviewed the attached PowerPoint presentation highlighting the levy limits, long-term challenges and the positive and negative highlights of the 2016 budget. He explained the history of levy limits, and how they have gotten much stricter in recent years. He also explained that only the operating budget is restricted, while taxes for debt payments are not restricted, effectively allowing the City to increase taxes for capital projects. He stated that the amount of Net New Construction was 1.62%, and that this sets our adjustment in the operating budget. He noted the major new construction projects, and pointed out that we are reliant on having at least one very large development every year. He explained that State Aid is an additional challenge, on top of levy limits, and that we will see the lowest level of state aid since 1994.

C/T Ladick then got into the specifics of the 2016 operating budget, and covered a few changes to the budget format. He explained the major budget negatives, which included a large reduction in state aid, increased health insurance premiums, and wage adjustments. He went on to cover the positives, which included levy limit increases, increased interest revenue, reduces worker's compensation premiums, and adjustments to how room tax is utilized. He explained that the proposal is to use room tax for more operating needs, as that is the restricted side of our budget. Finally, he proposed the tax levy of \$14,771,056 for an assessed tax rate of \$9.84/1000 and noted that the tax rate has been incredibly stable over the past five years.

Mayor Wiza highlighted a few items. The increased interest revenue in the amount of \$160,000 was all done by C/T Ladick and his financial management. The former pay plan turned obsolete because those incremental increases every year to try to keep up with inflation were not done, this year, they were done at the maximum of .73% across the board. The Code Enforcement Officer was also incorporated into the budget and he said driving around town things look better. The IT Administrator was a big hit, but we knew it was coming and prepared for it and we have already ordered computers that should be here by the end of the week, which will allow those people with outdated machines to do their jobs more efficiently. He commended the City employees for doing their share and highlighted a member of the Streets Dept that partook in the Employee Suggestion Program, recommending taking scrap metal at the dropoff and then finding a buyer for those metals. The City now gets revenue from scrap metal that is collected. He also pointed out that because we have been paying down the debt, we are eligible for some other options. Also the controlled spending by Dept. Heads and the employees has helped the situation. He also touched on some of his concerns. The Air B&B's, where people will rent rooms out on particular websites and not pay room tax on it, basically running unlicensed hotel rooms. Another concern was the taxi service called Uber, along with several others. He stated we need to be able to get those at the state legislature to address these issues.

Jeff Bahling, 3225 Yosemite Drive, asked if someone would explain when the room tax began, what the ordinance says it is for. Director Schrader replied that room tax was put into legislation in 1967 and the City imposed it in 1980. At the time, it was controversial and the City ended up getting sued by the Holiday Inn because they wanted to find out if it was legal to impose a room tax, which the City ended up winning the law suit. In 1987 the first room tax committee was formed and the goal was to set 5 year plans as to how the money was going to be spent. The money was set aside through a resolution with a sinking fund for park improvements. The plans were set in 1987, 1993, 2000, and 2007. The 2007 plan was the last one because they then built the Goerke Sports Complex around 2011 and took money out, which extended the plan. So the history is that there has always been a committee and they always solicited input from the citizens. The breakdown originally was 70% major projects, 10% arts, 10% special events, and 10% planned maintenance. The last plan shifted 65% major projects, 15% planned maintenance, 10% special events, and 10% arts. The arts was split 5% arts endowment and 5% to run the Arts Center and the endowment generates money that helps run the Arts Center.

Ald. Oberstadt mirrored Mayor Wiza's comment that it is not going to get any easier or better for us in the future. She is concerned that when the capital projects are taken out of room tax and put with the other capital projects, it is going to be really hard to compare things that would increase tourism or improve the City in other ways, other than the typical capital projects. She had asked for some history as to what has been built with these funds. Director Schrader stated the Park Commission had asked for a list also, which he has if anyone would like to see it, but there are probably 30-40 items that were done. Some of the projects were Green Circle Trail, Willett Arena, Zenoff Park, renovating different areas of the parks, fixing up the Rec Center, basically a lot of "quality of life" projects and he agreed that it is going to be tough when we come forward with a project and it is up against the Hoover overpass. He hopes that people keep these projects in mind during those discussions. He also stated that when they did not have projects, the money would build and they would have a little pot of money that groups knew that in about 3 years they could start their project so they would start the fundraising for it. This new procedure will complicate that.

Jeff Bahling, Park Board Chairman, stated that without the Green Circle, Bukolt Park, etc., this town would not be what it is today, so he asked to please keep that in mind when making future decisions. He stated he understands it is tough to have to make decisions for things, but encouraged continued funds be put towards things that make Stevens Point a wonderful place to live.

Mayor Wiza wanted to point out that this year they have worked with the school superintendent, along with the Police and Sheriff Departments and decided that it was important that we reinstitute the cadet recognition program that was taken out of the budget a few years ago. They have now added \$3,000 for the purpose of recognizing outstanding safety crossing cadets.

Ald. Kneebone mirrored Ald. Oberstadt's thoughts and asked if there was a way this could be looked at on a yearly basis. Mayor Wiza stated it is already being done that way through the budget process as it is up the Alderpersons to prioritize.

C/T Ladick agreed with Mayor Wiza, stating that there has been a lot of Parks projects done without using the room tax dollars. This year there was a shelter project at Piffner Park, with a budget of about \$200,000, and also the shelter at Mead Park, so this change does not mean that we will not be doing anything park related anymore. Room tax money has been used to supplement those capital projects and it has, in some instances, helped the capital budget. It is true that there may be a little more competition with capital projects but there has been parks projects done every year. He already knew that the people of this community would make the parks projects a priority, so he was not concerned with making this change. He also stated that there has been a plan discussed to grow that pot for capital projects.

Ald. Mrozek stated that in January-February we will be looking at the borrowing for our capital projects. Since there will not be room tax available for capital projects, it will have a huge impact on what we used that money for in the past. She stated that when she makes decisions, she uses the thought process of what can be done through the public sector and what they will help pay for and the private sector where the money comes forward. She is concerned that with the constraints that are in place, what would happen if Edgewater cannot pay the 1.5 million that they need or if the bids come in more than the 1.5 million, would that become our obligation. She questioned C/T Ladick if Edgewater would run into any operational issues or if they cannot pay back their debt, would that impact our operational budget. C/T Ladick replied that operations are restricted and debt service is not restricted, so the most likely scenario would be that we would have to help them make their debt payment and then that would not affect our operating budget. We could charge extra taxes for it, like we have for the downtown TIF district. He did state, however, that if you are looking at an operational subsidy outside of debt service, then yes, it would affect the operational side of the budget.

Ald. Mrozek reminded everyone that once money starts being set aside for projects, we are going to have to do more with less. She does not want to see things that the public sector should be paying for be compromised due to something that she feels would be better served in the private sector. She pleaded with the rest of the Council to pay attention to the bids that come in for projects and keep the bigger picture in mind.

C/T Ladick reminded the Committee that this is only the first meeting to lay out the initial proposal. There will be a public hearing at our Finance Committee meeting and also a public hearing before adoption.

ITEM #2 – RECOMMENDATION OF 2016 LEVY TO COMMON COUNCIL.

Motion made by Ald. Van Stippen, seconded by Ald. Kneebone, to approve the recommended levy of \$14,771,056 with an estimated mill rate of \$9.84/\$1,000 of assessed value.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Adjournment at 7:04 P.M.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE
CITY OF STEVENS POINT FOR THE YEAR 2016**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, that the foregoing and annexed summary budget for the City of Stevens Point for the year 2016 be and hereby is adopted and that the same be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amounts set forth and designated in said budget be and are appropriated to the uses and purposes therein particularly set forth.

APPROVED: _____
Mike Wiza, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
John Moe, City Clerk

Dated: November 16, 2015
Adopted: November 16, 2015

**RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE
CITY OF STEVENS POINT FOR THE YEAR 2016 AND
LEVYING TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2015**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, that for the purpose of raising moneys necessary for general uses by the City of Stevens Point for the year 2016 there is hereby levied upon all taxable property, both real and personal, in the City, a tax in an amount sufficient to raise the amounts required by the budget for the City of Stevens Point and an irrevocable tax in the amount of \$ 14,771,056 for the year 2016 and that the tax rate for the City of Stevens Point for the year 2015 be and hereby is fixed and established at \$ 9.84 per thousand of such assessable property in the City of Stevens Point.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, that a levy limit adjustment shall be taken under Wisconsin Statute 66.0602(3)(fm) in the amount of \$169,290.

APPROVED: _____
Mike Wiza, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
John Moe, City Clerk

Dated: November 16, 2015
Adopted: November 16, 2015

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR WRITING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS INTO
THE TAX ROLL FOR 2015**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, that there be and is hereby levied against the following property, as described in the annexed roll, a special assessment tax for the purpose of collecting charges for special assessments and special charges and charges of the Water and Sewage Department.

Descriptions and amounts for all special assessments provided for in this resolution are listed in the **SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RECORD** entered in the **TAX ROLL FOR THE YEAR OF 2015**, recorded on file in the City Clerk's Office.

APPROVED: _____
Mike Wiza, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
John Moe, City Clerk

Dated: November 16, 2015
Adopted: November 16, 2015