

**BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES
DES PERES BOARD OF ALDERMEN
DRAFT 2021 OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW
OCTOBER 19, 2020**

A Work Session of the Des Peres Board of Aldermen of the City of Des Peres, Missouri was held at the Des Peres Government Center, 12325 Manchester Road commencing at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 19, 2020.

The following Board members were present: Alderman Pound, Alderman Barrett and Alderman Concagh. Aldermen Fitzpatrick, Sansone and Kleinschmidt were absent. Mayor Becker was present and presided over the meeting. Aldermen Concagh exited the meeting at 7:56pm due to a scheduling conflict.

Staff members present included the City Administrator, Assistant City Administrator, Director of Finance, Director of Parks and Recreation, Director of Public Safety, and the Director of Public Works.

2021 OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

City Administrator Harms advised that the purpose of the work session was to provide a detailed overview of the proposed 2021 operating budgets including the General Fund, Park Fund, Public Safety Fund and Fire Fund. Under the current proposal, operating budgets are collectively balanced with a projected surplus of \$249,111 across all funds reflecting \$18,430,364 in total expenditures. To achieve that balance, the City Administrator cut or delayed \$453,714 from preliminary operating requests resulting in a projected fund balance of \$7,779,584 for the General Fund and \$1,677,564 for the Park Fund – both of which meet or exceed their respective targeted ranges. However, the city will need to discuss options for resolving an anticipated negative unreserved fund balance in the Park Fund, which is largely a byproduct of declining revenues caused by COVID-19 including diminished activity at The Lodge and declining sales tax revenues.

Without a quorum present, the remaining Board members advised that the Board would reconvene for another work session on Monday, October 26 both before and after the regular meeting to resolve the following issues:

- Will the Board authorize or suspend merit increases for eligible employees at mid-year for 2021?

- At what rate, if any, will the Board impose a cost-of-living adjustment to the 2021 pay plans affecting all employees?
- Should the Board reinstate, delay or eliminate the \$50,000 appropriation currently in the proposed budget for deer sharpshooting services performed by White Buffalo?
- What is the Board's strategy, both short and long-term, for resolving the anticipated negative fund balance within the unreserved portion of the Park Fund?
- Is the Board committed to outsourcing core city services to that are currently provided in-house to capture potential savings?

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before the Work Session of the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor called for the meeting to adjourn at 8:23pm.

Minutes prepared by:

Scott Schaefer
Assistant City Administrator