

The Cresco City Council met in special session on February 1, 2016, at 5:30 pm at City Hall. Council Members Carman, Bouska and McGee were present. Brenno arrived at 6:10 and McCarville was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Bohle, City Clerk Girolamo, and Deputy Clerk Murphy.

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 after all the cuts is now projecting a substantial loss in the water and sewer funds but a large profit in the LOST fund. Council discussed various options and decided to add back some of the items that were originally cut by funding part of the projects. Quotes were obtained for some equipment so the budget numbers should better reflect the actual cost. The water rates will need to be increased about 5% and the sewer rates by 1%. The City Clerk will make the adjustments and run new budget worksheets for Council to review. If the numbers come out as expected, there will not need to be another worksession before the public hearing.

The Cresco Urban Revitalization Plan is set to expire January 1, 2017. This tax abatement plan encourages new construction and improvements to properties in the City which then increases the property tax base for years to come. Council discussed whether to extend the plan or let it expire. The Council also discussed the need to amend the current plan due to the changes in the State law regarding commercial rollbacks and the new class of property called multi-residential with a big rollback. The discussion centered around having a cap on the eligible expenses and how long the abatement should be allowed. The consensus was to amend and extend the plan another 5 years offering 75% abatement for 3 years with a cap of \$150,000 for residential, \$350,000 for multi-residential and \$750,000 for commercial properties. Bouska will check with other cities to see what they offer and Girolamo will check with our attorney at Ahlers & Cooney regarding the legal issues.

Carman moved to adjourn at 6:53 pm. Bouska seconded and it passed all ayes. The next regular Cresco City Council meeting will be February 15, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Cresco City Hall.

Mayor Mark Bohle

City Clerk Michelle Girolamo