

MINUTES

City of Des Moines Finance Committee
August 12, 2002; 3:30 p.m.
Community Development Conference Room

Present: Council Member Maggie Steenrod (chair)
Council Member Richard Benjamin
Council Member Gary Peterson
City Manager Tony Piasecki
Interim Finance Director Dick Scott
Budget Accountant Peggy Watson

Tony distributed his 2003 Conceptual Budget Plan, along with the budget analysis for 2003, and expenditure reductions submitted by the departments at 5, 10, and 15%. He walked the committee through the plan and explained the analysis.

The committee discussed many different topics involving expense reductions:

1. E-mail the City Currents to those who want it via e-mail instead of sending it through the mail.
2. Look at the city's memberships and determine that all are necessary.
3. Look at uniforms and cleaning costs.
4. Look at employees' benefits.
5. Look at the training overtime policy for the police.

Tony will look into the overtime policy for the police and report back to the committee on his findings.

When discussing the traffic unit, the committee determined that it would like to see data regarding the number of tickets written by the traffic unit officers versus the number of tickets written by the patrol officers.

Dick Scott was asked to explain why it is important to hire a Finance Director with local government experience versus one without. He explained that fund accounting differs greatly from accounting performed in the private sector. And that it could be very difficult to start with a Finance Director with no governmental accounting background and no experience with the laws that dictate how cities handle their finances.

A request was made to clarify one of the handouts; to not only show what cuts were proposed by the departments, but which cuts were then added to the 2003 Conceptual Budget Plan. This presentation will be delivered to the next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Development Conference Room. At this time, there will be continued review and discussion on the 2003 Budget Plan.

The meeting dates and tentative agendas are as follows:

August 20, 2002	Review and discussion on the 2003 Conceptual Budget Plan
August 26, 2002	Presentation of Comm. Dev. Econ. Devel. Proposal
September 2, 2002	Labor Day; no meeting
September 9, 2002	To be determined