

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET PRESENTATIONS
August 16, 2023

The following Council Members were present:

President Richard Ring
Vice President David Yarde
Member William VanWye
Member Robert Krafft
Member David Yarde
Member Amy Demske
Member Amy Prosser

Others present:

Auditor Susan Sleeper
Financial-Budget/Tax Deputy: Jody Wiedenhoeft

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

President Richard Ring called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

President Ring started with announcing the growth quotient is going to be set at 4% per the State and there are wage situations that need to be looked at for Health Dept, Highway, Public Defender, and IT that will need to be addressed with how much of the 4% increase has already been taken up from the other wage increases. Rick stated that those departments will most likely have more than a 4% increase, but the other departments will not see more than a 4% wage increase.

MATTER OF BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

The following departments presented their budgets in the on August 16, 2023:

Cheryl Lynch- Health Dept.

Councilman Rick would like to see what the duties of her current employees are and what they will increase to with the new funding responsibilities. Dotty explained that if the position was defined as a temporary position, it would only be for one year and would not need to offer benefits. This position would need to be a regular full-time employee of the County. Amy Prosser clarified that the new SEA 4 funding could be used for the salaries. Amy feels that the program was sold to the Commissioners with the thought of no new employees would be hired, however, Cheryl clarified that SHE never said that new employees would not be needed because of the number of duties required from the new SEA #4. Rick Collins clarified with Cheryl on the request for purchase of vehicles, one is a replacement, and the other will be a new vehicle so the Environmentalists are not waiting on each other to get their job done.

Ben Parker- Highway

Ben asked if there was anything specific that the Council wanted to hear about. Rick Ring feels the biggest issue is the lack of being able to hire employees and wants to know what level of wage is needed. Ben explained that he and Dotty tried to think outside of the box on all kinds of different ways to find employees. The most recent person offered a position was going to take almost a \$4/hr to come to the County. Ben explained that right now the employees are very loyal, but when they start retiring or leaving it will be a huge issue getting anyone to come work for the County at the low wage. Rick reminded the Council that if the 2023 wages are changed that will affect the 2024 budget values as well.

Mark Olivero- Public Defender

Mark reminded the Council that he had reviewed various counties on who offers benefits for their Public Defenders and how they are able to do so. Rick Ring clarified that if the Council can get the benefits offered to the full-time prosecuting attorneys, then he would forego raises. However, if the benefits are not added then Mark would need to increase the wage to \$40,000. Amy Demske mentioned that if benefits are offered to Public Defender, then the Prosecutor would need to be treated the same. She also pointed out that some employees would be penalized because they may be offered better insurance at a spouses work and then wouldn't get a wage increase either.

The Council began going through department budgets looking at line items that had an over 5% increase.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and called back into session at 1:30 p.m.

Neal Blythe- Prosecutor

Neal explained that he took Claramary's budgets and worked off them for his first budget cycle. Neal does not feel that freezing their wages and offer benefits would be beneficial for his current employees. Neal then went over the letter he had prepared and was received by the Council prior to meeting.

Jack Smith- IT

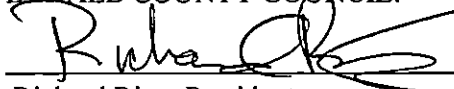
Jack gave an overview of what he has requested in his 2024 budget, and at the moment has put a stall on projects to give his team time to recover from email migration and increase their skills. Discussion took place over the next few years with retirements and where the department is heading.

These departments had the items that would cause the largest budget increases and the Council wanted to hear the reasons from the departments prior to going into Public Hearing Days.


MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Rick Collins moved to adjourn at 3:19 p.m. Amy Prosser seconded, and all approved.

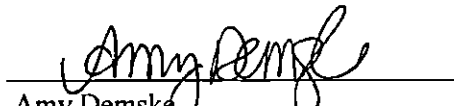
DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL:


Richard Ring, President

absent
David Yarde, Vice President


William VanWye


absent
Robert E. Krafft


Amy Demske

Amy Prosser

absent
Rick Collins

ATTEST:


Susan Sleeper
DeKalb County Auditor