

**City of Westwood Hills**  
**Budget Hearing Minutes**  
**Date: August 13, 2018**

Mayor Paula Schwach called the August 13, 2018 Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Schwach, Mary Becker, Rosemary Podrebarac, Karen Shelor Sexton, John Weedman, Ludwig Villasi and Beth O'Bryan. City Attorney Jim Orr and City Treasurer John Martin were also present.

Citizens Pauline Freeman and Jon Braatz were in attendance.

**Budget Discussion:**

Mayor Schwach started the discussion by explaining where a homeowner's real property tax money goes:

- The KS Dept. of Revenue estimates that about 40 cents of every property tax dollar goes to the school district;
- About 29 cents goes to the county;
- About 16 to 23 cents goes to local city government (with specials districts +.23);
- About 5 cents goes to community college; and,
- The rest goes to state and townships.

Mayor Schwach explained how Westwood Hills spends the property taxes and sales taxes Westwood Hills receives:

- The largest share of the City's general fund funds public safety: 44% for law enforcement alone and 54% if we include police, animal control, crossing guard and the mental health co-responder.
- The next largest expense will be the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) loan repayment and reserve at \$44,456 annually, or 11% of the budget.
- We have also budgeted a \$40,000 transfer to the capital improvement fund, and the accumulation in this fund will be the cash source for paying for street paving.
- For years the city paid for 1 or more leaf pick-ups in the late fall. Last year was very costly—over \$5,000 for a single leaf pick-up. Some residents were dissatisfied, and equipment was damaged when one or more residents failed to follow instructions. This budget does not include funding for the city providing this service.

Mayor Schwach discussed the proposed final budget:

- If it were not for the stormwater repair project, the General Fund rate would drop by .621 mills from 24.943 to 24.322 mills
- The stormwater project is costing (assuming no cost overruns and no unforeseen circumstances) \$369,123.40 with a loan of \$357,319.52.
- The debt service and reserve for the storm water project requires an additional mill levy of 4.999 mills.
- The total mill levy proposed for 2019 is therefore 29.321.
- The total mill levy would have been higher if the City had taken any other approach to the project. Because the Mayor spent 6 months preparing a KDHE loan application and we incurred no bond counsel, financial advisor, and private placement or broker fees, Mayor

estimated that the City saved about \$100,000 in costs which would have meant 14.29 in additional mill levy or continued deterioration of the storm water collection system.

Schwach asked for questions and/or comments from the council and citizens. Jon Braatz asked what is the percentage increase for the mill. Treasurer Martin reported that it is about a 20% increase. Freeman and Shelor Sexton commented that they are in favor of the no city-wide leaf pick up.

Shelor Shexton said the budgeted line item for the co-responder is incorrect. It should be \$700.00 for 2019, which will require another \$275.00 over the \$425.00 proposed budget. Schwach reported that we will not amend the budget, but we will move the \$275.00 from the project line item to the Co-responder line item as expenses are incurred.

**Weedman moved and Shelor Sexton seconded a recommendation to adopt the 2019 calendar year budget as presented with the notation that we will add \$275.00 administratively to the co-responder line item. All in favor. 2019 budget recommended to Council for adoption at its regularly scheduled meeting immediately following this hearing.**

**Weedman moved to adjourn the budget hearing. Hearing adjourned at 7:21 p.m.**