

**ORTONVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**CITY OFFICE MEETING ROOM**  
**315 Madison Avenue, Ortonville, MN**  
**Monday, February 17, 2009**  
**6:00 P. M.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Blair Johnson called the Budget Committee Meeting of the Ortonville City Council to order at 6:00 P.M. Roll Call was taken with the following Present: Mayor Blair Johnson, Nick Anderson, Craig Randleman, Bob Meyer, John Cunningham, Mike Dorry, Steve Berkner. Staff Present: City Administrator David Lang, Deputy Clerk Susan Lundell, Accounts Payable Clerk Deb Hicks, Office Assistant Deb Ellingson, Golf Course Manager Travis Strasser. Media Present: Sue Kaercher Blake (*Ortonville Independent*). Others Present: Jon Olson and Bob Schlieman of Ulteig Engineers, Carolyn Drude of Ehlers & Associates, Dan Oakes, Penny Baybridge, Ron Frauensuh, Marcy Stotesbery and other interested citizens.

**DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY 2009 & 2010 LGA REDUCTIONS:**

Mayor Blair Johnson reported on the Projected Local Government Aid Cuts for 2009 of \$63,000 and 2010 of \$142,000.

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL 2009 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:**

Mayor Johnson reviewed the summary spreadsheet of budget adjustments as formulated by the Budget Committee. The summary spreadsheet focused on the following cuts: Part-Time Employee Benefits, Swimming Pool Hours and Staff, and Golf Course cost savings for fuel and fertilizer. The elimination of Part-Time Employee Benefits was discussed. City staff contacted other municipalities for information regarding benefit packages offered to permanent part-time employees and found that many cities provide benefits to these employees. Council Member Randleman stated we have good people working in the City Office and targeting their benefit packages for cuts would be a mistake.

Clerk Administrator Lang suggested putting off the purchase of a front-end loader until late March. He also stated the Trail Head Grant could wait until the 2010 budget year. Berkner gave credit to Council Member Dorry for asking, at past meetings, where the matching funds would come from to pay for the City's portion of the grant.

Dorry asked how much the City was taking in on fire contracts. Clerk-Administrator Lang will report on that at the next budget meeting. Dorry also suggested that the City hire the City Attorney by the hour rather than on a monthly rate. The Council felt that with more construction projects in the works that it would be cheaper to retain the attorney on a contract basis for now. Dorry also asked if the City could share Administrative costs with some other governmental agency. He stated that we have 3 Administrators working in the office and felt it was too much especially considering

there is a full-time EDA employee. Berkner stated the EDA is successful in getting grants for the City.

Other cuts considered: Reducing the hours that streetlights are on, combining Police Department with the County Sheriff, delay or cut capital improvement projects, decrease wages, annex property to the City, across the board budget cuts, increases in fees, cut discretionary fund, revise special assessment policy.

No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting by consensus at 6:58 P. M.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Blair Johnson  
Mayor

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David A. Lang  
Clerk-Administrator