

HOMEDALE CITY COUNCIL
Homedale City Hall
Court Room
31 W. Wyoming Street

FY26 Budget Meeting Minutes

June 5th and June 16th - both meetings at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Gheen Christoffersen

Council Present: Steve Atkins, Aaron Tines, Mike Aebischer, Kim Murray

Guests: See Attached

Staff attending: Alice E Pegram, Jeff Eidemiller, Jacob Hyer

Discussion/Action on FY2026 Budget

June 5th Meeting:

Fees were discussed: Parking fines – currently \$5.00 – per Jeff we can't enforce this unless we amend our ordinance. We could make it a fine and it would not go to court. Mayor suggested the Council look at the current fee schedule and we will discuss at a regular meeting.

Ideas: Parking Fines - \$50

Kennel licenses – suggested to change it to \$150

Sewer dumping fees: it was discussed we should no longer allow – the Council decided to leave the amount on the schedule, but we should not allow dumping into our system, effective immediately.

Keeping the island green until after the 4th was discussed.

Also, a location for a new reader board was discussed.

Police Dept. Jeff asked to have the uniform allowance increased for one year, he would like to get each officer a dress uniform, also they upped the training/meals and officer training equipment. The officer training line increase includes money for new body cams, which they will be leasing, and the cost is cut in half (\$9,000) after the first year. If he stays with the lease, there will not be any additional costs for upgrades or repairs. The training line item was increased to \$5,000. He increased the car to \$75,000 for another explorer. Currently they are sitting pretty good, but if they were to lose a car, it would be nice to have the money there. He added they still have 2 in lease agreements. He asked to discuss the addition of an ordinance officer: The additional costs for a full-time ordinance person would be approx. \$60,000. Jeff stated he had a vehicle the person could use. Also, the person could assist Public Works when needed. Alice stated she would have a time sheet for this person so they could accurately charge their

time between HPD and Public Works. Jacob stated he could use them to check grease traps and possibly a few other things. Jeff added ordinances are a civil offense until they do not comply, at that time it becomes a law enforcement issue. Councilman Tines suggested waiting to see what other projects the city will need money for. All agreed. Jeff said to just pull it out, he didn't want to go through this another time. Jeff said his frustration is they talk about spending money here and there and the police department provides the most service with the least amount of people, he said they provide 365 days, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day service and because he is general fund it is the first place they say, we can't afford it. He said if they do not desire it this year, he wants to pull it. The Council said they were wanting to discuss it, not saying no. Jeff said they need to get the dog kennels going. He stated they need to remove the kennels from South Board. He is getting bids for the remodel of the building, he is estimating \$15,000 to complete the city's kennels project. It was decided some of the funds could come out of economic development. Jeff said he could possibly use his capital improvement.

Public Works:

Jacob talked about equipment he needs; he is asking for a mini excavator at approx. \$6,000, a new mower, he increased his equipment budget to \$250,000.

His sign budget was increased; he needs to update to meet State code.

Streets and Highway: The Mayor is asking for \$750,000 for misc. projects (road maintenance) They need to do more than just chip seal. The Mayor said we need to be better at working with contractors and partnering with them on road repairs.

The Council asked Jacob to give them a list of items that need to be repaired and/or replaced.

Parks: project park, they still want horseshoe pits and clean up by river for fishing.

Jacob said he thought he could get a kit for a gazebo.

He has turned in a report on pool repairs, see attached.

He said he would like to see Sundance Park turn into a Sports Complex.

The concession stand at Sundance Park needs repairs.

Our tennis courts need extensive repairs; it would cost approx. \$100,000. The Council feels the school should assist with expenses.

Water Fund: Jacob added P P E to all funds, for safety equipment.

The new water project was discussed; he said the chlorine costs will be going up.

It was discussed if the Fire Dept. could get grants or help us with hydrants?

He added enough for equipment for radio read meters. He was going to start using these for all new meters.

Sewer: He said they did a walkthrough with the contractor, no more warranty. He said everything is on the City, per Andrew. The Mayor said he believed the warranty would not run out if there were issues.

He added Analytical Lab will be going up, fuel will be up (propane), sewer line cleaning will go up. (Sewer line cleaning including lift stations should be cleaned/maintenance every year.)

Airport: It was discussed increasing hanger rent; Jacob added the quote he recd to seal the cracks was \$100,000. He said they mow once a month.

Irrigation: working on repairs

Overall Public Works: it was discussed putting a flatbed on a truck with tool boxes or possibly purchasing one with the toolboxes, pipe racks etc. set up.

General Fund: (includes wage information)

P & Z is up, due to the proposed new construction coming in. Fire Dept impact fees were added. General Fund city support will be up due to the other funds increases. Wages were figured at 3%, per the Mayor. Council wanted me to figure what a 5% increase would be.

Councilman Tines asked for a quote and possible placement of an electronic sign and options for the island.

Jacob stated the infrastructure in the Jackson/Ahlquist complex would be the public works dept. responsibility when it is completed, after the warranty. The meters will be on their buildings. The roads will be a parking lot so they will not be our responsibility.

June 16th:

Wages were decided at a 3%, plus use a 2% overall and divide by the number of employees. This is to give the lesser paid employees a bit more.

It was decided to hire a fulltime ordinance enforcement person for \$18.00 per hour. They would be charged at approx. 70% Police Dept and 30% Public Works. They would complete a time sheet for distribution of wages.

Streets and Highways was decided at \$500,000.

The Mayor and Council agreed with the other department's increases.

Mayor Christoffersen closed the meeting.



Gheen Christoffersen, Mayor



Alice E. Pegram City Clerk