

Augusta Memorial Public Library Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, 6:30 pm

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Bunny Turner

Present: Rebecca White Body, Barb Johnson, Bunny Turner, Patricia Wessel, Korinne Wiese

Also present: Leslie LaRose, Mayor Jason Tepaske, representatives from the Friends of the Library, Bob Chaffee

Absent: Polina Kudelina, Brenda Pettis

Quorum Present

Open Meeting Law Compliant

Agenda Approved : Motion made by Barb, seconded by Korinne

Minutes from Oct. 21, 2024 Approved: Motion made by Barb, seconded by Bunny

Budget:

1. Bunny attended the City Council meeting and was informed that there was a proposal to only allocate \$70,000 to the Library in 2025, which represents a budget reduction of over 25%. While this proposal hasn't yet been approved, it will be voted on at the City Council's Nov. 7 meeting.
2. The Board went over the budget to find items to cut or reduce in order to accommodate the reduced support from the City. Since expenses like utility bills aren't discretionary, the only line items that could be adjusted were wages and acquisitions. The following cuts were proposed to bring the budget total down to \$70,000:
 - a. Instead of receiving a 2.5% cost of living increase like other City employees, the Associate Librarians and Clerk 1 will receive a 15 cent an hour raise.
 - b. The Junior Clerk positions, Clerk 2, and money allocated for substitution hours will be cut entirely.
 - c. The Director's wages will be frozen at 2024 levels.
 - d. A total of \$1300 was removed from the Operations budget, including the entire programming and marketing lines. A total of \$5,589 was removed from Acquisitions.
3. Members of the Board and Friends of the Library asked if the library was the only City department being cut and if the budget would ever be restored to previous levels, but that information wasn't provided.
4. Leslie was asked what her priority would be if at least some of the eliminated funding could be restored. She said she would like at least one Junior Clerk position to remain so that employees wouldn't have to work alone on nights and weekends, which is a situation that raises safety concerns.
5. Mayor Tepaske suggested writing grants to compensate for lost funding and using volunteers to staff the Library. However, Leslie noted that most grants don't cover regular operational expenses like wages. Friends of the Library members pointed out that many organizations struggle to find people with the time and resources to volunteer, so the Library is unlikely to find volunteers to reliably replace lost staff.
6. The final budget will be voted on at the City's Nov. 7 meeting. Bunny made a motion that she ask the City to restore at least \$5200 to support one Junior Clerk position. Korinne seconded the motion, Patricia abstained, and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

Minutes taken and typed by Rebecca White Body