

There are concerns with the City of Glasgow's budget. A public hearing was held before last night's Glasgow City Council meeting to give the public an opportunity to express their thoughts, and although Councilwoman Sheila Oliver was physically unable to attend the meeting, her opinions were heard via a letter read aloud by fellow council member, Stacy Hammer.

{audio}<http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0611oliverstatement.mp3>{/audio}

Once the budget was presented during the actual council meeting, Councilman Jim Marion defended the significantly low general fund projected carryover of just over \$607,000, but with caution for the future.

{audio}<http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0611marion.mp3>{/audio}

Glasgow Mayor, Rhonda Trautman, explained that nearly half of the general fund is budgeted toward the police and fire departments. 91% of those funds are expended on personnel, meaning that in order to balance the budget, the city would have to either let employees go, or transfer funds from the landfill and perpetual upkeep budgets in order to fill the void of a budget carryover the city is used to seeing. The landfill budget, alone, is projected to have a carryover of just over \$4.2 Million next year.

Trautman says she is hopeful the budget will exceed revenue expectations, but serious cuts will have to be made in the near future if revenues continue to be less than expenditures.

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0611trautman.mp3{/audio}

Newly-elected council members Dick Doty, Joe Trigg, and Karalee Oldenkamp all expressed their concern with a dwindling carryover. Doty actually made the motion to send the budget back to the finance committee. The voice vote was very close, but ultimately the budget was brought to a first reading vote by the council. That vote, which is not a role call, but a voice vote on first reading, was extremely close. Here is the audio from that voice vote.

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0611voicevote.mp3{/audio}

So, the budget passed on first reading. WCLU News asked Mayor Trautman about the due process of a vote being so close...

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0611trautmanresponse.mp3{/audio}

There will be a role call vote for the second reading of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year at the next Glasgow City Council meeting.