

Mayor and City Commissioners

Some commissioners have asked for input into the budget because we do complain when it's not to our liking.

Commissioners need to remember that the outcome and the information they're getting from the city employees are going to be the same. It's the direction and input you give them that will get you the desired outcome. The proper input and information should come from the national, state, and local economy now and what is forecast.

Our city government has increased in size and cost because of unprecedented growth mostly due to the oil boom. With the pandemic, the oil bust, and the problems in agriculture, everyone is affected by the economic disaster. Some of this may be short term but oil, gas, and coal will be more long-term.

The city manager and department heads need to rethink and reduce their budgets. A prominent government employee said that with the economic downturn and the large buildup of government over the last few years, the ability for taxpayers to meet those increased costs has diminished. There is plenty of room for a reduction in the budget. Families, businesses, nonprofits, and the unemployed are making reductions, therefore, the city government needs to be just as responsible and understand the economic conditions we live in and make their reductions.

A suggestion that may be beneficial would be to give the budget portfolio to one of the other commissioners and direct the city manager to come up with a budget that reflects Bismarck's economy and the needs of its citizens.

Please don't come back with a statement WHAT SERVICES DO YOU WANT CUT. Some of us business people remember the city engineer that raised our water rates. Prior to becoming a city engineer, that person worked for the state and got an approximate \$30,000 increase in salary to come work for the city of Bismarck. Those types of decisions are coming home to haunt us now.

Please manage the budget.

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