FINANCE COMMITTEE
Date and Time: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers
Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson, Michael Martens, and Deb Ryan
Members Excused: Dawn Herbst
Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Bob Barteck, Mark Hanson, Eric Lindman, Toni Vanderboom, Kaitlyn Bernarde, Gerry Klein, Jim Wadinski, Michelle Van Krey

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Rasmussen.

Minutes of the previous meeting(s): (11/09/21 & 11/23/21)
Ryan requested that action on approval of the minutes be deferred to next meeting.

Discussion and possible action on request to purchase a 2015 Elgin Sweeper (Mark Hanson)
Mark Hanson, Fleet Manager, summarized they have used Elgin Sweepers in the past over the years and they have proved to be the best fit for certain applications for the springtime and fall sweeping. He noted there is currently one brand new sweeper on order to replace the 2008 unit, and there are two other older units that are on schedule to be replaced in 2023 and 2024. He indicated he wanted to replace one of those units now with a more efficient 2015 unit he found available through the Elgin dealer (MacQueen Equipment) as it would be exactly what is needed to start the spring sweeping season. The DPW Operators are familiar with this unit and for the newer employees it is best to buy similar equipment that everyone is familiar with. He hoped to get these two newer sweepers ready to sweep in early spring. He explained they require a lot of maintenance and with new staff it will be difficult to get the older units ready for spring. The 2015 unit that is available was on a five-year maintenance contract with the dealer, so it has been maintained and would be ready to go for the 2022 season. He pointed out it would be a lower cost alternative to purchasing a brand-new unit, which is $174,000 versus $300,000, as well as save on a lot of repair costs now.

Hanson proposed they delay the scheduled 2022 purchase of three flatbed trucks to 2023 and the funds saved from those would be used to purchase the 2015 sweeper. He stated there was also a steam boiler scheduled to be replaced this year for $85,000, but following research found it could be replaced with a much less expensive boiler, rather than a steam boiler they could do a pressure washer type unit for under approximately $30,000. This would be a way to buy the sweeper and still have enough funds to by the pressure washer in this year's purchases. He recommended the sole source purchase of the used 2015 Elgin Pelican Dustless Sweeper for $174,000 based on the above information. He noted he investigated similar units online and did not find anything else that was comparable.

Deb Ryan suggested putting the purchase of the three flatbed trucks and the boiler on the city's wish list for possible funding through the $15 million of Federal funds. She noted a lot of used cars and trucks are increasing in value and perhaps someone would want the old trucks for parts.

Motion by Watson, second by Ryan to approve the purchase of the 2015 Elgin Sweeper. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on approving Towing Services Agreement with Joe Rader Towing, LLC
Rasmussen stated an RFP was released for three categories of towing services: non-consensual no preference tows, evidence tows and city-owned vehicle tows. The recommendation is for Joe Rader Towing, LLC.

Motion by Martens, second by Ryan to approve the Agreement. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on a budget modification to fund the Remedial Action Options Report (RAOR) for the Riverside Park environmental site at 132 River Street
Motion by Martens, second by Watson to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on authorizing the application for grant funding to enable the future hiring of up to 12 firefighters/paramedics
Rasmussen stated there has been presentations and discussion to hire additional firefighters at Council, Human Resources Committee, and Public Health & Safety Committee over the last couple months. She pointed out that

today Chief Barteck is requesting permission to apply for a SAFER Grant for funding, which has an application deadline of February 4, 2022.

Chief Barteck presented a PowerPoint explaining the SAFER Grant program, which can be viewed on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHLGH8wFtK0 He noted the Fire Department had recommended the hiring of at least 9 additional firefighter/paramedics. The HR Committee has recommended hiring 12 additional because employees within the department have more available time off than there are time slots to allow them off. If another 3 additional staff over the 9 would open an additional vacation slot and reduce overtime, as well as improve employee morale and wellness.

Ryan suggested trying to find/hire bilingual firefighter/paramedic staff for the department, if possible and stated she was in support of applying for the grant.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to authorized submission of a grant application for funding the hiring of up to 12 firefighter/paramedics. Motion carried 4-0.

<u>Discussion and possible action regarding City ARPA request form</u>
Maryanne Groat reviewed the ARPA categories, spending matrix, proposed city applications and the Treasury's Final Rule Overview, beginning page 47 of the online committee packet (*link below*): https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Standing%20Committees/Finance%20Committee/2022/FINC_20220111_Packet.pdf

Groat noted the applications are for internal use only. City representatives would develop applications and proposals to benefit outside individuals and organizations based upon need. There will be a lot of opportunity in the process to receive feedback from residents and other interested parties. She suggested having applications due on a monthly or bi-monthly basis in conjunction with surveys on the website, as well as a public hearing. The committee can rank the applications similar to the way we do the CIP process. She commented the benefit of regular applications is being able to consider new ideas as they are formulated. She stated she would like them to allow departments to start putting together ideas and working on their applications. She indicated at the next meeting she would present the matrix and the questionnaires/surveys to post online.

Ryan had concerns about lead lateral replacement in the city because she estimated it would take $50 million. She stated there could be additional park improvements in lower class neighborhoods, as well as additional shelters for the bus riders. Rasmussen stated appropriated departments can fill out applications to bring those ideas to the Finance Committee. Ryan recommended they handle this through the Committee of the Whole and have additional public hearings. Rasmussen pointed out the Committee of the Whole can only make recommendations and cannot make a final decision or spend money. She further stated the COW is used for training, learning, and issues of wide public interest that don't fit into other standing committee missions. Finance Committee is the committee that manages the money so this work should be done here, and any Council member can attend the meetings and hive input into the decisions. She felt using the Committee of the Whole to spend this money was completely inefficient. Ryan disagreed, felt the committees had too many delays and reiterated she believed the Committee of the Whole was the perfect place to put it together.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to accept the ARPA forms as presented. Motion carried 3-1. (*Ryan was the dissenting vote.*)

<u>Discussion and possible action on budget modification and financing source for the hiring of 3 firefighter/paramedics</u>
Rasmussen explained this will help launch some of the staffing initiative. Groat stated our budget has been set and the levy created for the 2022 year, so our ability to generate more money is limited at this point. She indicated the options that were discussed with Chief Barteck were to look at carryover funds from 2021 or consider that the ARPA funds because the matrix includes increasing FTE's. There is that risk of what to do when the grant monies have evaporated, and it needs to be funded permanently. She stated they could do a combination and fund one year out of ARPA and work to get the staffing in the 2023 budget. She noted by the time they recruit and hire it would be almost to midyear, so it would not be a full year of those staffing positions to ARPA, but they could use the newly adopted application form and direct the Fire Department to fill it out now or wait until we know the carryover. She stated those were the only two resources that she knew of.

Rasmussen stated we should know what carryover is by February or March and felt that it was a reasonable approach to take. She suggested approving the hiring of the 3 additional staff and allow some latitude to develop the fund/revenue source for the salaries based on the date of hire because that is going to take some time. This would also be contingent upon a review of the 2021 surplus.

Ryan stated they could be grant funded and if those funds ran out their positions could be eliminated. She felt they needed to also look at other neighboring communities to work together to cover the area. She stated the surplus was wanted for our roads and streets. Sarah Watson pointed out there is still an unknown amount coming from the State for infrastructure/roadways.

Motion by Martens, second by Watson to approve the hiring of the 3 additional firefighter/paramedics. Motion carried 3-1. (*Ryan was the dissenting vote.*)

Discussion and possible action regarding November 2021 General Fund financial report
Deferred to next meeting.

Adjourn
Motion by Watson, second by Martens to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.