

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: *In Person:* Lisa Rasmussen, Michael Martens, Deb Ryan, and Dawn Herbst; *By WebEx:* Sarah Watson

Others Present: Leslie Kremer, Maryanne Groat, Tara Alfonso, Ben Bliven, Tracey Kujawa, Eric Lindman, Katie Rosenberg, Pat Peckham, William Harris

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). (1/12/21)

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 1/12/21. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action authorizing the City of Wausau's participation in the Guaranteed Income Research Program for Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI) and the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practices Center for Guaranteed Income Research and the acceptance of \$100,000 in grant funding to start a pilot MGI program in the City.

Mayor Rosenberg stated this is an opportunity to help with poverty in our community. She noted Madison signed onto the program last year and she contacted the organizers for conversation about it. She explained the idea is for a guaranteed income targeted for people with the most need. Part of this research project is to provide a grant of \$100,000 and we decide on the criteria. It could be used for 18 people up to 150 people, depending on the funding, where they are given \$500 per month for a year or year and a half. The researchers then study what people are buying; ask how their life is improved; how are they changing their habits, etc. She suggested the city participate in the project and come up with a plan on how to deploy it. She indicated she has preliminarily spoken with United Way on perhaps helping us to come up with the criteria, possibly through a mini task force.

Lisa Rasmussen asked her to speak to those who feel this is a disincentive to work. Rosenberg explained ALICE households (Asset Limited Income Constrained and Employed), as measured by the United Way, is where the funds would be targeted. It is not necessarily for the people that are homeless, rather it is targeted for the working poor and families trying to make ends meet that can't quite get there. She noted it is a grant from the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, not city money and no requirement of a match.

Rasmussen felt it was important to point out that the end of the program is the end and we would not seek to continue the program or infuse it with taxpayer funds to extend it. Rosenberg responded there is no requirement to extend; the research timeline is a year and a half, they collect the data and it's done. *Discussion followed.*

William Harris, Marathon County Supervisor District Three, spoke in support of the initiative.

Motion by Watson, second by Ryan to approve the participation in the Guaranteed Income Research Program and forward to Council. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding funding and sole source purchase of Priority Based Budgeting

Mayor Rosenberg explained Priority Based Budgeting is a software that helps municipalities figure out programmatically how they are spending their money. She indicated Marathon County uses this software in which department heads enter all their information on their budgets, as well as where the money was going and how much programs were costing and ranked how they were performing based on specific criteria. It is a basis for deciding how you want to continue funding programming.

Maryanne Groat, Finance Director, commented this program will help the city prioritize spending and give us tools to try to engage the citizens. She stated another benefit is that using the same software as the county is advantageous, especially for joint city/county department heads, like Parks Department, not have to use two separate software programs. It provides institutional knowledge and enables us to partner with the county on a joint project.

Rosenberg stated one of the things the county has not implemented yet, but that she thought would be very useful is the citizen side, where citizens can dive into the budget and pull out what they are interested in.

Deb Ryan indicated she would like to learn more about the program first and felt they should wait to take action on this request until it can be looked at by the Council once the year end surplus is determined. *Discussion followed.*

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve Priority Based Budget. Motion carried 4-1 (*Ryan was the dissenting vote.*)

Discussion and possible action regarding 2021 budget modification request for Robotic Total Station

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the budget modification. Motion carried 4-1 (*Ryan was the dissenting vote.*)

Discussion and possible action regarding 2021 budget modification request for DPW Material Crushing Proposal

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the budget modification. . Motion carried 4-1 (*Ryan was the dissenting vote.*)

Discussion and possible action regarding funding LED lighting for McClellan Parking Ramp

Michael Martens questioned why they were considering replacing the lights when the McClellan Street ramp has a timeline for replacement.

Eric Lindman, DPW & Utilities Director, stated they have been looking at the lifespan of the ramp and a recent plan would give the ramp another five to seven years. He indicated they received such a good discount on the lights at \$37,500, which would normally cost about \$120,000 on the market. He noted the payback on electricity savings would be less than a year on these lights.

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve the funding for LED lighting. . Motion carried 4-1 (*Ryan was the dissenting vote.*)

Discussion and possible action regarding 2020 budget modification Storm Sewer Emergency Repair

Rasmussen explained there was a very large storm sewer failure along North 3rd Avenue a month or so ago so they have allocated some fund transfers to cover those costs.

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve the budget modification. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding the Motor Pool Fund 2020 Financial Preview

Groat presented a PowerPoint report on the Motor Pool Fund, which can be viewed online at:

[Wausau Finance Committee 1/26/21 - YouTube](#)

Discussion and possible action on the November 2020 General Fund Financial Report

Deferred to next meeting.

Adjourn

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