FINANCE COMMITTEE
Date and Time: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers
Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Michael Martens, Dawn Herbst, Sarah Watson, and Deb Ryan
Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Anne Jacobson, Ben Bliven, Bob Barteck, Eric Lindman, Katie Rosenberg, Sean Fitzgerald, Jamie Polley, Leslie Kremer, Tom Neal

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). (3/23/2021)
Motion by Ryan, second by Herbst to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 3/23/2021. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding carryover of project and designated funds to the 2021 budget
Maryanne Groat explained the majority is in the capital projects funds because some projects span multi years. The budget is created and adopted prior to the commencement of the project. At year end we compare what was budgeted for the project, what expenses have been drawn on the project to date, and then carryover those funds for the next year so it can be completed. She reviewed the list (Exhibit A) in the packet, which shows all of the individual projects and what their status is.

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to approve the carryovers. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding 2021 budget modification for additional testing at Riverside Park $18,000
Rasmussen stated the information in the packet indicates that Wisconsin DNR has requested the city do some additional testing at Riverside Park. She noted in the past they have worked with REI and are looking to use them again.

Motion by Ryan, second by Watson to approve the budget modification for additional testing. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding request for funding to cover insurance for the Labor Day Parade (Randy Radtke - Marathon County Central Labor Council)
Rasmussen stated this request comes every year and has been approved. The cost is taken out of promotions.

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

Discussion only - American Rescue Plan spending; recommended guiding principles
Groat stated the city anticipates receiving approximately $15.7 million and have through calendar year 2024 to spend the funds. She noted the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends cities take their time and until a lot of informational is available in order to be impactful in that spending. There are going to be other allocations that the city may be able to apply for that have different guidelines. The broad categories are: revenue replacement; Covid expenses; premium pay; and investment in water and sewer broadband. GOFA suggests shying away from creating new programs that are going to need to be fed in the future, because this is a sum-certain allocation of funds. It is important to consider things that are a one-time cost because this is one-time money. *Discussion followed.*

Discussion and possible action on approving settlement offer to settle claim filed with Zagster, Inc.
Rasmussen explained Zagster was contracted to provide bikes on the Riverwalk, but then they essentially collapsed and did not have money to pay us. They offered a settlement of $900 which was declined and we decided to wait and see. There is a new offer that is a percentage of our claim which is amounting to between $3,000 and $4,500.

Anne Jacobson stated we didn’t really know if the offer would get any better. Zagster filed bankruptcy and sold all of their assets minus their stock to another corporation. That company is offering 20 – 25%. Rasmussen noted we are still in possession of the bikes and have them in storage. Deb Ryan did not feel the offer was going to get any higher and that the city should accept the offer.

Michael Martens questioned what was going to happen to the bikes. Sean Fitzgerald stated the city has acquired the bikes and the Parks Department has them in storage and is working with Community Development to identify some providers for the bike rental software and maintenance to continue the bike program. He noted the city also owns the two racks where the bikes are stored and charged.

Motion by Ryan, second by Watson to accept the settlement offer at 25% or $4,500. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding the sale of city-owned property at 510 South 32nd Avenue
Rasmussen stated there was a previous offer on this property (formerly Fire Station #2) for $200,000 that required a special meeting to consider the plan and to meet the deadline. The committee was unable to come to consensus at that meeting other than to attempt to delay the deadline. Since then the offer has been withdrawn

Groat stated we have received a new offer for purchase from a firefighter for $150,000 to convert it to a single family home. Jeremy Kopp indicated him and his wife made the offer with the idea of extensive interior remodel, but keeping the exterior looking like a fire station. The offer is $150,000 because it will cost at least that much to renovate it and make it livable for us. They have been wanting to move into the City of Wausau but have had a hard time a home and this will be unique.

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to approve and accept the offer of $150,000 for the building for a single family home. Motion carried 4-1. (*Ryan was the dissenting vote.*)

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 19.85(1)(g), for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the rendering of oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, specifically regarding the Memorandum of Understanding with the Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention & Visitors Bureau
Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to convene in closed session. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Martens, Watson, Herbst, Ryan and Rasmussen. Motion carried 5-0.

Reconvened into Open Session to take action on Closed Session item.

Memorandum of Understanding with the Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention & Visitors Bureau
Rasmussen clarified over the last couple months the Mayor and some of the neighboring communities have been engaging in mediation activity between the city and the CVB to discern whether or not it would be possible for the city to do business with them again as a tourism entity. She explained if they approve this it would authorize the Mayor to begin contract negotiations, but it is not a final contract yet.

Mayor Rosenberg stated it was felt that it was important that there be new leadership at the CVB and we want to be involved in the selection process. She indicated we also want to make sure that we are holding annual meetings to know what we are actually getting for our money. There should be goals for the upcoming year; financial plans and the results of those; assurance that the contracts are legitimate and without confusion; and although they are not a public entity, they are receiving public tax dollars so it is important they operate in a manner of governmental organization. There should be agendas and minutes and transparency through reports. Deb Ryan felt it was important to have an independent annual audit, as well.

Motion by Ryan, second by Watson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with an amendment to include an annual financial audit for the city to receive and review. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn
Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.