

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday May 10, 2022 @ 5:30 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Doug Diny, Carol Lukens, Sarah Watson, Michael Martens

Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Bob Barteck, Liz Brodek, Randy Fifrick, Anne Jacobson, Eric Lindman, Gerry Klein, Mary Goede,

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

Minutes of the previous meeting: (4/26/222)

Motion by Watson, second by Lukens to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on funding of a Community Outreach professional

Lisa Rasmussen stated Chief Bliven made a presentation to the HR Committee for a Community Outreach professional to replace the work that Officer Lemirand has been doing for 18 months proactively helping the homeless. He is requesting seeding the effort with ARPA funds to get something started sooner rather than waiting for the 2023 budget process to play out. She indicated the HR Committee has recommended unanimously that it become a permanent position. She stated we can discuss it tonight and the Chief can fill out the ARPA request form for us to rank and act on at a future meeting.

Chief Ben Bliven stated he planned to make an ARPA request for their next meeting. He explained ARPA funds is the fastest way to get the position approved and funded because it is a need today. Rasmussen questioned if this would be to seed the salary for the first year and Bliven confirmed this. He noted they have the ability to spend the ARPA funds through 2024, so they could build it into the regular budget after that or use other dollars. He indicated the top end of the salary range is \$67,000 not including benefits; the total is approximately \$95,000.

Maryanne Groat stated another option would be to fund it for 2022 with ARPA and try to fit it into the 2023 budget and/or phase it in through 2023 and 2024. *Discussion continued.*

Discussion and possible action regarding City stage for Taste N Glow Balloon Fest

Rasmussen stated the Room Tax Commission has awarded room tax dollars to assist the Taste N Glow Balloon Fest because it generates room nights in the Wausau area even though it occurs out in the township. They are requesting use of the stage again this year and for DPW to set it up for them. This would be considered an in-kind donation and would require approval.

Groat noted she received a communication that FOX News Sports is no longer able to come, but Discover Wisconsin is proposing to do the show.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve the use of the city stage and set up for the Balloon Fest. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA status, ARPA funding requests and related budget modification

Rasmussen stated these are the results of the rankings the committee did last week: CCITC Fiber Project scored 62, EEC Request direct impact from the pandemic scored 58.5, Additional Firefighters to seed positions scored 54.75, and Fire Land Acquisition scored 39.5.

Sarah Watson questioned if some of the funds for the Fiber Project could come from the Infrastructure Jobs Act (IJA). Gerry Klein, CCITC Director, stated he had not seen anything at the state level about it yet. He indicated he would like to put it out for bid this summer and do it this fall, if possible. Groat indicated she could check with the state to see if they have any information on the status of those infrastructure funds, as well as reach out to the League of Municipalities.

Michael Martens commented he would like to see the land acquisition for Fire come to CIP first and hold on the firefighters right now until they recruit, and we are ready to make the financial commitment.

Chief Bob Barteck stated currently there are two open positions in the department, and we are conducting interviews next week of two individuals. He stated if we are approved for this request, we will run a summer posting trying to target students coming out of graduation to have the first three. He stated for the other nine firefighters he was optimistic for Federal funding for the first three years under the SAFER Grant.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to fund the Fiber Project and the EEC Request and hold on the other requests for future consideration.

Doug Diny questioned if the Chief were to find three good recruits tomorrow this request could be put on the fast track. Rasmussen indicated it could come back to the next meeting, if necessary. Groat noted every time the committee is considering requests, they can always reconsider previously unfunded ones.

Vote was taken on the motion on the floor. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA listening sessions and idea submission tool

Rasmussen stated there may be value in conducting some additional public information/listening sessions because the initial ones that were held were very poorly attended. It was pretty new at that time and people are now more aware of it. Sarah Watson suggested having an outside venue with the summer weather approaching.

Carol Lukens questioned if there was a way to include a bulletin with an outline of criteria for the funds for people unfamiliar with what is eligible. Watson suggested if there was a video produced by the League or the government a link could be added.

Discussion and possible action on approving Waiver of Appraisal, Settlement Amount, Temporary and Permanent Limited Easement and Payment Requests for the 72nd Avenue Multiuse Trail Project for the following properties: 7575 Bombardier Court, 7255 Stewart Avenue, 400 S. 72nd Avenue and 400 N. 72nd Avenue

Rasmussen explained this refers to temporary and permanent easements for these properties that are needed to get the multiuse trail in.

Motion by Martens, second by Diny to approve the easements. Motion carried 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to s. 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session regarding approving waiver of appraisal, counter-offers, easements and payment requests for the 72nd Avenue Multiuse Trail Project for the following properties: 7500 Stewart Avenue and 720 S. 72nd Avenue

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to convene in Closed Session in the Maple Room.
Roll Call Vote carried unanimously.

RECONVENED into Open Session

Discussion and possible action on approving Waiver of Appraisal, Settlement Amount, Temporary and Permanent Limited Easement and Payment Requests for the 72nd Avenue Multiuse Trail Project for the following properties: 7500 Stewart Avenue and 720 S. 72nd Avenue

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Presentation 2021 Financial Results: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAGghEktrOQ>

Maryanne Groat present the first half of the PowerPoint presentation, which can be viewed online.

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.