

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 13, 2020 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present *In person:* Rasmussen, Ryan, Herbst, and Watson. *By WebEx:* Martens.

Others Present: Groat, Rosenberg, Jacobson, Goede, Van Krey, Stratz, Lindman, Wesolowski, Barteck, Bruce Bohlken

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 Chairperson, Lisa Rasmussen.

Discussion and possible action approving the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program Action Plan Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Reprogramming Homeowner Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund into CARES initiatives

Ryan questioned why the Women's Community Center and the Hmong American Center had not applied and whether they had been reached out to.

Tammy Stratz, Community Development, indicated they reached out to all the non-profits and the United Way also helped to contact them all. She commented she was surprised they only received two applications, but thought perhaps the timeframe was hard with not receiving the funds from HUD until possibly June or July.

Rasmussen stated in the summary of the allocations one of the line items was \$70,000 for administration of the plan. She questioned why any of the funding was allocated to administration when the 2020 budget for staffing in the department is already taken care of. She felt all the money should flow out into the community.

Stratz explained it costs the department money to advertise and do extra work to run the program. She noted they were also sharing it with McDevco who through advertising and reaching out will have high overhead. She felt they should pay themselves for the work they are doing. Rasmussen commented she would just like to see a smaller percentage for administrative expense. Stratz responded they are allowed to do 20% of an allocation and reiterated that they sharing it with McDevco for their overhead and extra advertising.

Ryan questioned if there was a way they could use \$100,000 of Homeowner Rehab funds as a cash advance towards CARES and then put it back when the HUD funds come in. She thought there may be people who need it for repairs to their property. Stratz stated there is currently \$120,000 in their Revolving Loan Fund of which we are requesting \$100,000 to be used towards the CARES. There is still over \$172,000 in new program funding to go to Home Owner Rehab. She did not foresee this hurting the Rehab Program at all and pointed out the CARES money has to go directly to CARES project and can't reimburse.

Motion by Watson, second by Ryan to approve reprogramming Homeowner Rehab revolving Loan Fund into CARES initiatives. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving the Assistance to Firefighters Grant for COVID-19 Response

Rasmussen explained it is a grant to purchase PPE for Firefighters and EMTs that would require a small nominal amount of city match.

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

Discussion and possible action regarding modification to the City of Wausau fee schedule related Inspections Department Fees

Ryan questioned if the occupancy fee was applicable to renter properties or homeowners. Bill Hebert explained the occupancy permit is just for new construction and is typically a document that is required by the lending institution.

Motion by Ryan, second by Herbst to approve the modifications to the fee schedule. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible regarding budget reallocation for Brockmeyer Parking Lot Improvements and JoJo's Jungle

Rasmussen explained at the last meeting there was discussion about a recommendation expected from Park & Rec Committee requesting the reprogramming of some of the funding that was approved for the parking lot at JoJo's

Jungle to assist the developer, who has fundraised almost all of the money, to re-add an interactive water feature. They were able to achieve a lot of the paving work themselves at reduced costs. She noted this money is already available and would not require any additional borrowing.

Motion by Ryan, second by Watson to approve the budget reallocation for JoJo's Jungle. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding March 2020 General Fund Financial Report

Groat reviewed the March financial report in the committee packet. It can be accessed on the city's website: <https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/Finance/MonthlyReports.aspx>

Discussion and possible action regarding the 2020 budget modification for the Bridge Street bridge

Rasmussen stated there was money budgeted this year to do some repairs to the Bridge Street Bridge to maintain it. She indicated they were also given some county dollars for County Bridge Aid that is a match to help with the project.

Rasmussen explained when engineering put out the bids they asked for a couple of alternatives to extend the life of the bridge because a new bridge deck is \$6 million. The recommended alternative is to shift some funds to a different line item so they can undertake the concrete repair and extend the life of the bridge 10 to 15 years.

Allen Wesolowski, Engineering, stated the bridge was constructed in 1987 and there hasn't been a major rehab project on the bridge since then. DPW does sweeping and cleaning every year and crack sealing, but no major overlays. In 2018 a pedestrian rail was added to the north side of the bridge for bicycle safety and painted the rail on the south side. He indicated the base bid in this project is going to be to replace the expansion joint on each end of the bridge and in the middle, as well as hammer out the delaminated concrete and put new concrete. Then there will be a polymer overlay, which is an epoxy overlay with sand to protect the deck. He indicated Kickbusch is under construction currently and under budget, so they propose to shift the money from that project for this one.

Motion by Ryan, second by Herbst to approve the 2020 budget modification for the Bridge Street Bridge repair project. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Herbst, second by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.