

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

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

Others Present: Rosenberg, Jacobson, Goede, Kujawa, Splinter, Barteck, Chmiel, Groat

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.

Minutes of the previous meeting(s). (5/05/20 & 5/13/20)

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to approve the minutes of the previous meetings on 5/05/20 and 5/13/20.

Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on terminating airport ground lease with Patrick and Jeanne Wallschlaeger

Rasmussen noted this was already approved by the Airport Committee.

John Chmiel, Airport Manager, explained Mr. Wallschlaeger is selling his hangar so the lease has to be terminated. The next item on the agenda is approval of the new lease for the buyer.

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve the termination of lease. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on airport ground lease with Merchant Property Investment LLC

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the airport ground lease. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on Wausau Flying Service utilizing federal CARES funding to relieve Wausau Flying Service of its direct expenses during the Stay At Home Order and utilizing the remainder of the CARES funding for use in airport development projects, such as a front end loader or architecture/design costs for terminal upgrades

Chmiel explained they have to commit to spending the funds before they can actually receive them, so they are informing the government how they intend to spend the funding.

Martens questioned if there was a significant savings in purchasing the front end loader versus leasing it. Chmiel stated the lease is approximately \$12,000 per year, which goes straight out the window when leasing. This will allow them to purchase a front end loader at a cheaper price and depending on who gets the bid to provide the equipment, they may be able to use the lease money from last year towards the purchase. It is perfect timing to use the lease money and CARES funds to bring down the cost of the front end loader.

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve Wausau Flying Service utilizing federal CARES funding. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding April 2020 General Fund Financial Report

The report was placed on file without discussion. The monthly reports can be accessed on line at:

<https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/Finance/MonthlyReports.aspx>

Discussion and possible action regarding liquor licenses fee reductions due to COVID 19 hardships

Rasmussen stated some municipalities are reducing liquor license fees for businesses that have been closed and endured serious financial hardships in order to help them get going again. She indicated the packet provided an estimation of the cost for a 50% reduction of the Class B Beer & Liquor licenses. She noted some municipalities reduced fees to statutory minimums, which is quite a bit less than proposed here. She stated they also have the ability to reduce the fees for the servers, however, server licenses are city wide and are used not only at bars and restaurants, but also by clerks in grocery stores and service stations who have not been precluded from working. She felt if they were going to make any adjustment to the license fee, it should be aimed to help the business and not the individual.

Watson questioned if Wausau's fees were in line with other communities. Groat stated Wausau is comparable to communities like Green Bay and even Weston. The smaller communities that have fewer licenses are going more in line with the minimum. The current fee for a Class B Beer & Liquor License is \$600.

Rasmussen stated a 50% reduction in the fee to \$300 would be approximately \$22,000 in lost revenue. She noted they will have to look at the city's cost to continue in the 2021 budget and may have to increase the taxes to cover the loss or make cuts.

Groat clarified this will be for 2020 budget and the League is indicating that they won't see any reduction in state aids for the 2020 budget. She felt the performance in investment income along with our conservative budgeting will meet that cost. The zoning permits are still strong and not anticipating any decline. She stated she did not have any big concerns with allowing a discount to the liquor establishments this year.

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to reduce the Class B license fees by 50%. Motion carried 4-0.

Ryan joined the meeting via WebEx.

Discussion and possible action regarding waiving of permits for Man of Honor fund raiser Saturday June 13th

Rasmussen stated this request comes before us every year from the Man of Honor Society. Watson questioned if there were going to be any safety measures since they anticipated 100 people. Goede noted the event was being held outside in their ball field.

Motion by Martens, second by Ryan to waive the permit fees for Man of Honor fund raiser. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding budget modification Wausau Fire capital projects

Rasmussen explained one of the things that were approved for CIP last year was heart monitors. The heart monitors were purchased and they would like to re-purpose the savings to make some repairs to basement of Station #3 that flooded during the rapid thaw two years ago. They extricated water from the carpet, but it remains very musty smelling. A maintenance person looked at the building and determined a cause and a solution so it doesn't keep happening, but they need to remediate that carpet in case there is mildew or mold under it.

Motion by Ryan, second by Herbst to approve the budget modification Wausau Fire capital projects. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Martens, second by Watson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.