

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 @ 5:30 pm., Council Chambers

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

Members Excused: Doug Diny

Others Present: Emily Ley, Robert Barteck, Ben Bliven, Matt Barnes, Liz Brodek, Eric Lindman, Anne Jacobson, Anne Keenan, Katie Rosenberg, Tammy Stratz, Gary Gisselman

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: (7/26/22)

Motion by Martens, second by Lukens to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Lisa Rasmussen stated two projects from the last meeting that came from Community Development with regard to low-income housing were ranked. One project is for Infill New Construction that proposes to build five homes to be sold for an affordable price; the other project is Additional Affordable Rental Units. The funding request for the two projects is just over \$1 million. Sarah Watson added her rankings which were favorable to the two projects. She commented affordable housing is one of the key things to spend ARPA funds on.

Rasmussen stated there was also a request to bring back and move forward the Homebuyer Education Counseling and Closing Assistance Incentive.

Carol Lukens questioned what the funding gap was for granulated carbon solution for the Water Plant. Eric Lindman stated they didn't really know yet, the project is \$17 million, but they received \$1.7 million in funding and there are two other pots of money as well as a forgivable loan through the Safe Drinking Water. He indicated this goal was to try to get to 50% of the cost of the project through grants, leaving approximately \$8.5 million.

Michael Martens pointed out the \$500 incentive for the Homebuyer Education goes toward the closing costs, not in the prospective homeowner's pocket. It would go directly to the bank or mortgage company that is servicing the loan. He felt the training was important so people understand what loan programs they are eligible for and/or can afford.

Rasmussen stated there was some miscommunication out there, when a statement was made by an alderperson that the city was almost out of ARPA funding and only had \$4 million left. Rasmussen clarified the city still has \$10 million in ARPA funds available. She felt it was important to point this out because it may have swayed some to feel they had to pull back because of running out of funding.

Motion by Watson, second by Lukens to approve all three projects from Community Development (Infill New Construction, Additional Affordable Rental Units, and Homebuyer Education & Counseling Incentive) for ARPA funding. Motion carried 4-0.

Rasmussen stated there is a new request for consideration from the Department of Public Works for \$200,000 of ARPA funding to push through some additional lead service line replacements.

Eric Lindman stated they have been receiving grant funding from the DNR every year since 2016 to replace lead service lines. It started out slow with very few residents taking advantage of it, but it has been increasing the past two years. He noted there is talk about the potential of a mandatory replacement ordinance coming with the new lead and copper rules and the Lead Service Line Replacement plan that will be coming through the commission. He indicated this year was the highest of \$577,000 to replace a little over 100 lines on the private side. He explained there is more demand this year and we have requested an additional \$200,000 from the DNR but won't have an answer until late this year, after the construction season probably November. In order to keep moving forward he was requesting ARPA to fill that \$200,000 gap and if the DNR comes through it could be returned. He stated starting next year unfortunately, the DNR is going to a 49% forgivable loan and the rest is actual loan.

Rasmussen stated this will be ranked for the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding Boulevard parking ordinance

Rasmussen explained this is an amendment to the Fee Schedule to increase the fine from \$10 to \$20 for parking in the wrong place.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve the amendment to the Fee Schedule. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding budget modification for WDNR RR Corridor Riverside Park Disposal and Delineation

Rasmussen stated the cost to remediate is \$28,600 and there is some funding available in the Holtz Krause environmental fund to cover it.

Lindman stated this was initially going to be part of the remediation plan, but after talking to REI they thought there may potentially be a high risk of a change order if we did not have the information before doing the remediation. It is felt that it is in the city's best interest to try to detail out for the DNR and delineate those areas. This results in less risk for change orders and additional costs. Once we have the information from the site it will be put out for bid and anticipate getting contractors in this fall.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve the budget modification. Motion carried 4-0.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin State statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, for the purpose of considering the following: Discussion of Committee recommendation regarding upcoming negotiations of City Employee Union Contracts with: Wausau Firefighters Association, Local 415; Wausau Professional Police Association

Motion by Martens, second by Watson to convene in Closed Session. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Martens, Watson, Lukens, and Rasmussen. Motion carried 4-0.

Closed Session in the Maple Room.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned in Closed Session at 6:37 pm.