

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Dawn Herbst, Sarah Watson Michael Martens

Members Excused: Deb Ryan

Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Anne Jacobson, Bob Barteck, Eric Lindman, Katie Rosenberg, Matt Barnes, Mary Goede, Patti Kaiser

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): (9/08/21)

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

Discussion and possible action Amending Shift Differential (Employee Handbook 5.08)

Lisa Rasmussen explained the Department of Public Works has a number of vacant positions that work evening hours and has had some real struggles with retention and recruitment. She stated the HR Committee is asking the Finance Committee to decide where to settle on the rate for the evening differential. She noted the HR Committee is recommending \$1.45 per hour additional for 2nd Shift and \$1.60 per hour additional for 3rd Shift, which would put us in parity with the private sector. The other level discussed at committee was higher than what employees are currently receiving, but would still put us in the middle comparable to some of our peer communities, but still behind private sector businesses that we are competing for talent with. Maryanne Groat clarified they are recommending adding \$1 to the existing rates of \$0.45 and \$0.60, with a \$12,800 fiscal impact for 2022.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to accept the shift differential rates of \$1.45 and \$1.60. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding Tourism Entity Agreement between the City of Wausau, Room Tax Commission and the Wausau Central Wisconsin Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

Rasmussen indicated the Room Tax Commission (RTC) met last night and recommended entering into the proposed agreement for one year. The commission will also review the effectiveness and the results of the agreement next year in September to evaluate if the changes being sought were made and reports were received. She indicated RTC would like the agreement to begin on January 1, 2022 to run along with the city's budget year. This will also give the CVB some time in recruiting their new director and getting that person settled.

Mayor Katie Rosenberg commented they came to a good agreement and felt the RTC provided some good direction and she was in favor of moving forward. Michael Martens commented if the city brings forward a good agreement it will help to encourage the other municipalities to get on board and make a stronger regional tourism entity.

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the Tourism Entity Agreement. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action on Land Improvement Agreement between the City of Wausau Downtown Airport and Keith Kocourek for Grass Runway 09/27 Upgrades

Rasmussen explained there was a need at the airport a number of years ago to upgrade the unofficial grass runway, but there was a weather monitoring system in the path. This system has now been removed and a hangar owner, Keith Kocourek, has offered to make the investment in the cost of establishing seeding and installing the irrigation for an official grass runway. This would make the airport very attacked to tailwheel aircraft. The city's responsibility going forward is to water it and for some ongoing maintenance, however, the Airport Manager indicated they are already mowing the area.

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the Land Improvement Agreement. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding request for transfer of funds from the Capitol Improvement Alerting System Upgrade Project to the Capitol Improvement Station One Remodel Project within the Fire Department CIP budget

Chief Robert Barteck explained with construction remodel projects we make our best guess beforehand as to what expenditures will be and problems encountered. The Central Fire Station is a relic and trying to do any type of resident renovations inside it is difficult. The project is not done yet as there were some delays. He indicated they see quite a bit of savings in the Phoenix G2 Project, which went much easier than anticipated and is completed.

There is an approximate \$17,000 excess they'd like to transfer to the Station One remodel project. If there are any funds left after that, they'd like to install new desks in three of the offices that were ignored in the previous remodel in CIP 2020. The sit/stand desks would be for the EMS Division Chief, the Deputy Fire Chief, and for the Battalion Chief's office.

Motion by Martens, second by Watson to approve the transfer of funds. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding June, July and August 2021 financial reports

Maryanne Groat stated from a revenue standpoint the only concerning item is the interest on investments. She explained there were two factors impacting the significant drop. Accounting practices require that we adjust our investments to market. She indicated on December 31, 2020 they were adjusted to show their value was higher than par value because they had been purchased at a time when interest rates were high and have now bottomed out. She stated we are only able to recognize investment income of \$62,000 because much of it was recorded last year.

Groat reported permit revenues were doing well and fines & forfeitures also increased. Expenses are lagging behind last year, helped by position vacancies and the mild winter.

The complete financial reports for June, July, and August can be accessed in the Finance packet online:

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Standing%20Committees/Finance%20Committee/2021/FINC_20210928_Packet.pdf

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, second by Herbst to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.