FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION #5

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers
Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Michael Martens, Doug Diny, and Carol Lukens *entered late at 5:28 pm*, Sarah Watson *entered late at 5:31 pm.*
Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Robert Barteck, Ben Bliven, Anne Jacobson, Katie Rosenberg, Liz Brodek, Mary Goede, Solomon King, Dustin Kraege, Jamie Polley, Chad Henke, Tom Kilian

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.

Meeting Video for full discussion: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JXqJ9zelMM

Minutes of the previous meeting(s): (10/11/22)
Motion by Diny, second by Martens to approve the minutes of 10/11/22. Motion carried 3-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funding requests and related budget modification
Lisa Rasmussen stated these are the of the capital requests for the Water & Sewer Utility from the last meeting, where the discussion was about applying ARPA towards these projects to help work toward improvement on the financial health of the utility by preventing them from further borrowing. She indicated all of the projects scored well.

Michael Martens stated most of the projects scored the same or high, but the only one below the median was the Solar Array Study. He questioned if they decided not to fund that at this point, would it still be out there for the Water Department to absorb. Eric Lindman stated the Water Commission approved the study, so we are under a contract for it. He indicated they are in the middle of revising the scope rather than jump right into design because there needs to be more public outreach. Approximately half of the allocated $230,000 has already been paid.

Rasmussen commented the only people publicly that are more familiar with the concept or what the plans look like are the residents in the immediate neighborhood surrounding the plant, and they are lukewarm about the idea at best. She felt most of the rest of the community is unaware of the project and if we want fair public engagement, we need a wider effort. Mayor Rosenberg stated at the last Water Utility Commission meeting she was asked to come up with a task force or work group that would include some people from the neighborhood and some expertise. She indicated that will be coming but we will still need the plans for them to react to.

(*Carol Lukens entered the meeting at 5:28 pm*.)

Motion by Diny, second by Martens to forward all the ARPA requests for funding, except for the Solar Array Study. Motion carried 4-0.

Budget Discussions and Actions regarding Recommending a 2023 Budget including setting the 2023 Fee Schedule ***Meeting Video for full discussion***: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JXqJ9zelMM

(*Sarah Watson entered the meeting at 5:31 pm.*)

Rasmussen indicated Maryanne Groat had compiled the committee rankings of the Supplemental Budget requests from the last meeting, along with the estimated tax rate impact. ***Link to ranked requests document below*:**
https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Finance/Documents/2023_Supplemental_Requests_Ranked.pdf

Parks Department
Rasmussen noted within the Parks Department there is unspent carryover that may remain from the end of this year that could perhaps cover some of their smaller projects. Jamie Polley stated there were leftover funds this year because they put off the Barker-Stewart Island Bridge Decking Project because quotes came in too high. She indicated that could take care of the smaller projects, like the pool pumps and possibly tree planting and tree removals, however, the Emerald Ash Borer Project, which she felt was critical, could not be taken care of by those funds. She indicated it did not necessarily have to be all or nothing, but any amount to get us closer to our goal. She stated they will continue to be as proactive as they can and if they get behind, they will come and request more.

Fire Department
Sarah Watson felt they should focus on the Mental Health Check-in request, but the others seemed less critical. Rasmussen questioned what amount would send two people to the specialty training convention and Chief Barteck indicated about half of the $13,100 request would make a difference. Consensus was to fund $5,000 of the $13,100 requested.

Police Department
The OWI Blood draws scored high as well as the Community Outreach Coordinator funding and the Body Cameras for the detectives. Consensus was to approve all three requests.

ED/Community Development
Discussion regarding sharing another administrative assistant with the Inspections Department or another department. Mayor Rosenberg indicated she would continue this discussion at the departmental staff meetings.

Public Works & Streets
Hot Mix was highest ranked and agreed upon. Rasmussen suggested funding the additional mechanic beginning on July 1, 2023, to reduce the budget impact to $45,000. Watson suggested doing that for all of the requested positions and get a report at the end of the year to determine if there are substantial savings. Eric Lindman indicated the training was currently being managed; it is just not as efficient as it should be. He stated if he had to sacrifice or defer one of these positions, it would be the Safety Coordinator.

Recap of the requests approved: Hot Mix, OWI Blood Draws, Body Cameras, Outreach Coordinator operating expense, Mental Wellness Program for Fire, Mechanic starting July 1st, Fleet Analyst starting July 1st, and Fire Training at $5,000; the rest were put on hold. Supplemental Requests totaling .16 cents was reduced to .039 cents. This would increase the impact from $42 per $100,000 to $45 per $100,000.

Doug Diny stated his only objection was that he would like to see more offsets committed especially based on cost savings. He did not feel they should go back and revisit adding any of these unapproved requests back on. *Discussion continued.*

Rasmussen indicated the mill rate will be set at a .45 cent increase from last year for publication, based on an estimated Assessed Value. She noted we are still waiting for the numbers from the School District, County, and NTC. **She noted the Public Hearing on the budget was moved from November 9th to November 15th with the budget adoption on November 22nd.**

Motion by Watson, second Martens to accept the items on the Supplemental Requests as discussed and direct the Finance Director to publish the draft budget. Motion carried 4-1. (*Diny was the dissenting vote.*)

Adjourn
Motion by Watson, second by Martens to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.