

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present *in Person*: Rasmussen (C), Martens, Herbst; *by WebEx*: Watson, and Ryan

Others Present: Groat, Goede, Barteck, Bliven, Fitzgerald, Jacobson, Kujawa, Lenz, Lindman, Rubow, Rosenberg, Van Krey, Kaiser, Sippel, Vanderboom, Peckham

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). (7/16/20, 9/08/20, 9/22/20, & 10/13/20)

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve all the minutes of the previous meetings. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving 2020 Room Tax Grant payments - Continuing Appropriation recipients

Rasmussen stated within the amount of room tax the city retains annually there are some entities that are earmarked for continuing appropriations. It is possible for 2020 the amount of room tax collection won't exceed the amount the city is allowed to retain. She indicated the Finance Director has proposed two options for disbursement of funding to the continuing appropriation recipients: 1) Disburse 75% of the allocation now and the balance at year end; 2) Disburse 100% of the allocation now and if revenues fall below the estimates, transfer fewer dollars to the general fund.

Maryanne Groat noted the Wausau Concert Band did not perform in 2020 due to COVID and therefore had no expenses. She indicated if they were removed from the list the total amount for disbursement would be approximately \$200,000. The city's retention amount is \$431, 973.

Ryan stated she wanted an update from each organization as to how they were affected by COVID, such as reduction of hours, etc. She commented more consideration should be given to those that were open than those that were closed. Rasmussen allowed comment and recipients present in the room and on WebEx updated their status on their programming.

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to approve Option 1 to disburse of 75% of the allocation now and the balance at year end. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving Westside Warehousing of Wausau LLC development agreement Tax Increment District Number 10

Withdrawn - Deferred to next meeting.

Discussion and possible action approving Cherry Tree Dental development agreement Tax Increment District 12

Rasmussen stated the Economic Development Committee worked with Cherry Tree Dental on concerns over land use and aesthetics and a redesigned and revised proposal was approved.

Ryan felt since there was no TID funding on the west side development, there should not be any on the east side. Rasmussen explained this question was asked of the developer in ED regarding the Stewart Avenue development, which was already completed, but they did not ask for funds for that site. They are looking for assistance with site prep with this development. Groat clarified the Stewart Avenue site actually did receive site assistance to Chuck Ghidorzi from the city in 2007-2008 due to massive quantities of excess soil and underground utilities needed following the state interchange project. It also covered the site where Ear, Nose & Throat and the Kwik Trip are today. *Discussion followed.*

Motion by Martens, second by Watson to approve the Cherry Tree Dental development agreement TID #12. Motion carried 3-2. *(Herbst and Ryan were the dissenting votes.)*

Discussion and possible action regarding purchase Betterbin Recycling App subscription \$8,243

Rasmussen reviewed about a year ago the creator of the Betterbin Recycling App did a recycling audit of a number of containers in the city to determine how clean or not, as well as how efficient our recycling and trash process is.

The Betterbin App can be used by residents to scan an item and determine if it is recyclable or not in order to get things in the right container.

Martens questioned if there was feedback from Weston who has been using the App. Michelle Gaiche, Betterbin Recycling App creator, indicated they just relaunched about two months ago in Weston so it was a little too soon for data. She felt there were two really important reasons the City of Wausau should consider it: 1) As a responsible unit the city is mandated by the State of Wisconsin to do education and outreach to residents about recycling correctly; and 2) Recycling wrong costs money in the long run. She noted Rocket Industrial is supplementing the subscription cost as a sponsor and have other stakeholders in the city who are willing to pitch in to make this work. In addition, the license fee includes support to Maryanne Groat as the recycling coordinator to help do social media outreach, Next Door App content, and provide a full content calendar of information to keep resident engaged about the topic and using the app.

Rasmussen requested an update to take a look at the use metrics before renewal. Peckham noted the Sustainability, Energy & Environment Committee reviewed this app and is in favor of it.

Motion by Watson, second by Ryan approve the Betterbin Recycling App subscription. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding midyear budget modification

Groat explained built into our Municipal Code is a process whereby in October of each year, using data the departments have put together while preparing their budgets, we are required to do a budget modification to balance any budgets that are expected to be overdrawn by the end of the year. It is intended to be a self-balancing adjustment so that you are living with the funds previously budgeted.

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the midyear budget modification. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding budget modification – Strategic Plan

Mayor Rosenberg stated they were ready to put out an RFP for a Strategic Plan. She indicated \$50,000 would provide for the strategic planning, community engagement, and follow up with deliverables and presentations to the community. Rasmussen indicated the funds could be transferred from building permit revenue. *Discussion followed.*

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve the budget modification. Motion carried 4-1. *(Ryan was the dissenting vote.)*

Discussion and possible action on settlement offer to settle claim filed with Zagster, Inc.

Rasmussen stated this Zagster provided bikes for a bike share program along the riverfront. The company dissolved and the city filed a claim. The settlement offer from Zagster is a lot smaller than the claim.

City Attorney Anne Jacobson felt she was at a loss to make a recommendation because she had no way of verifying if what the administrator of the Zagster Trust says is true. She indicated it appears to be mired in a mess that will take years to straighten out. The city paid \$18,000 (which was the first half of the \$36,000 agreement) and that is what the claim was filed for. Zagster is offering a \$900 settlement which is 5% of the claim. She noted they have \$26 million of assets, but nothing that can be liquidated and have \$50 million in claims and are in bankruptcy.

Rasmussen pointed out the city is still in possession of the bikes. Jacobson stated Jamie Polley, Parks Director, indicated the bikes are secured in storage. It was noted the bikes are now owned by a leasing company which we are in discussion to purchase. Martens questioned if the bikes had value because they need the app to unlock them. There are other companies that can provide a compatible bike share program. Discussion on the pros and cons of settlement followed.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve the settlement offer. Motion failed 0-5.

Discussion and possible action on bargaining agreement between the City of Wausau and Wausau Firefighter Association for January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve the bargaining agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on Reclassification of Senior Property Appraiser to Deputy Assessor

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to approve the reclassification. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on Sole Source purchase of automatic CPR devices (ZOLL Medical Corp)

Rasmussen stated this was originally considered in CIP, but the Fire Department was able to obtain a grant which leaves us a balance of \$883.

Motion by Watson, second by Ryan to approve the sole source purchase. Motion by carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on Sole Source request for replacement of fitness equipment at Station #3 (Johnson Commercial Fitness)

Rasmussen noted the equipment they currently have installed at the new Fire Station #2 is under a maintenance contract, so the equipment they are seeking to purchase would be from the same source and covered under it.

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve the sole source request. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding 2021 Budget Update

Groat stated the budget was published on October 25th in the Wausau Daily Herald as required by law. Notification was received on the final assessed valuation and indicated her estimate was about \$7 million under the final number from the state. This dropped the assessed tax rate down a couple more pennies, so it is now at a 9.70 tax rate. The health insurance enrollment ends on Thursday and will be updated following that deadline. The tax from other taxing jurisdictions are the final two pieces we are waiting on.

Rasmussen commented this year we are actually passing along a sizeable mill rate decrease to Wausau residents as a result of our 2021 budget workshops.

Adjourn

Motion by Martens, second by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.