FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., Council Chambers
Finance Committee Members Present: Michael Martens (C), Gary Gisselman (VC), Becky McElhaney, Chad Henke Vicki Tierney
Public Health & Safety Committee Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen (C), Lou Larson (VC), Becky McElhaney, Sarah Watson, Carol Lukens
Others Present: Maryanne Groat, Eric Lindman, Matthew Barnes, Tracy Durante

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Martens called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting (06/24/2025).
Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Tierney, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding 2025 General Obligation Promissory Note for Capital Improvements.
Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Tierney, to cover the $149,349 from lead service line replacements with excess revenue surplus from 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on approving Nominal Payment Parcel Report for Business Campus Trail E-W Connector, Project ID 6999-18-11, for the following properties: 8101 International Drive and 7801 International Drive.
Martens questioned the reasoning for going into close session. It was stated this was to consider potential purchases to offer land and easements in relation.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session regarding possible action on Nominal Payment Parcel Report for Business Campus Trail E-W Connector, Project ID 6999-18-11, for the following properties: 8101 International Drive and 7801 International Drive.
Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, to convene the Finance Committee in Closed Session.
Roll Call Vote – Yes: McElhaney, Gisselman, Henke, Tierney, Martens; No: None. Motion carried 5-0.

CONVENED into Closed Session

RECONVENE into Open Session, if necessary, to take action on Closed Session items.

JOINT AGENDA ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m.

Discussion and possible action approving contract for emergency shelter services with Bridge Street Mission, Inc.
Rasmussen stated the contract outlined an acceptable level of services and deliverables to accommodate emergency shelter during extreme weather events and year-round night shelter. It was also stated the contract offered the night shelter separately from voluntary programs offered by the organization. Rasmussen stated this would be a more sustainable option for the Community Outreach Coordinator.

Lukens stated that Marathon County had not committed to contributing funds to support the contract along with the city of Wausau. It was also stated that some unhoused people may have experienced religious trauma preventing those individuals from seeking services at this religious organization. Lukens stated a preference for extending the current services offered at the WMC Shelter for enough time to allow the Request for Proposal to receive more proposals.

Rasmussen stated hearing similar concerns to Lukens but none from district constituents. It was further stated timing is a concern to open the shelter in a timely manner. It was also further stated the contract specifically disallows discrimination and does not require individuals to participate in further religious-based services offered by the organization.

Teirney stated support as the current WMC Shelter was meant to be a temporary shelter. It was stated concerns that not having additional shelters during extreme weather in winter would lead to deaths among the unhoused population. Tierney stated non-religious based organizations had not responded to the RFP.

Watson also stated concerns with Marathon County not committing to contributing funds to support the contract and questioned why the city was moving forward alone when the original proposal was that the city and county would work together on the RFP process seeking shelter services. It was stated the county administrator may ask for the Marathon County Board to allocate unused funds from the current fiscal year to support the contract into the next fiscal year.

Larson stated support as no other organization had responded to the RFP. It was further stated that if the religious aspects of the organization remain separate from the shelter services of the organization this contract was acceptable.

Lukens stated concerns with the organization stating publicly that volunteers are required to adhere to Christian values and how that would translate to providing their services for shelter. It was stated the requirement of volunteering is for their religious-based services and not for the shelter services. Lukens stated a preference for an annual contract to seek review every year.

Rasmussen stated the Public Health & Safety Committee would have an annual review on the agenda to review the services for a number of concerns by committee and council members.

Gisselman stated embarrassment that the contract was delivered to the members of the Finance Committee the day of the meeting and stated more time was needed to review the contract. It was further stated that Marathon County should be involved in the contract agreement.

Martens stated the contract was straight-forward and did not seem out of the ordinary. It was further stated the contract approval should move forward.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by McElhaney, to put this agenda item on the table to the next Finance Committee meeting. Motion failed 2-3, with Gisselman and McElhaney in support.

Gisselman stated concerns with the funding of this service in the context of potential funding cuts in the budget.

Martens stated that the budget will be a difficult conversation and that shelter services had been outlined as a service citizens of the city wanted.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, to approve the contract for emergency shelter services for the Finance Committee. Motion carried 4-1, with Gisselman opposed. Motion by Larson, seconded by Watson, to recommend the Common Council to move the contract forward for the Public Health & Safety Committee. Motion carried 4-1, with Lukens opposed.

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting of the Public Health & Safety Committee. Motion carried. Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, to adjourn the meeting of the Finance Committee. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

For full meeting video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvADeTkZj74 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUToVHPteLo