

FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION #2

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 @ 6:30 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: *In person*: Rasmussen (C), Martens, Herbst, Watson; *By WebEx*: Ryan

Others Present: Groat, Rosenberg, Goede, Kaiser, Barteck, Bliven, Jacobson, Klein, Kujawa, Rubow, Vanderboom

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.

Discussion and possible action regarding the 2021 Budget and 2021 fee schedule

Supplemental Requests link:

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Finance/Documents/2021_SUPPLEMENTALPACKET.pdf

Maryanne Groat stated the supplemental requests were ranked by the committee and sorted so that those with the highest points are the requests that garnered the most support. She noted a couple of them already had a funding source built in. The two Motor Pool requests would be funded through the Motor Pool Fund.

Groat stated the Park Department request to update their Recreation Plan received the fewest points, however, it is somewhat important because the city doesn't qualify for some state aid programs for Parks unless there is an updated plan. She stated Parks is going to experience some savings in their budget this year because of the closed pools. She proposed using those savings for the update to the plan which could be considered a one-time expense.

The top ranked request was the Mental Health Evaluation; followed by the Motor Pool Contracted Services (funded by Motor Pool); Special Events Staffing; Physical Therapist; one FTE for Property Appraiser; 2 way radios (funded by Motor Pool); Videographer; Street Maintainer; Recreation Supervisor; and Preservation Coordinator.

Groat commented they should consider what special events will look like next summer when considering the Special Events Staffing request. Rasmussen stated last year this was funded but then not used when events were canceled. She questioned as events start to recover, do we need to go from zero to 100% in this program or should it be phased in over a couple years.

Chief Bliven understood the budget is hard but felt this is need for the community and have had a deficit in for some time. He stated if they were looking at funding it at a level less than 100%, then fund the CSOs and part-time police officers and he will do his best to manage that overtime budget. He pointed out CSOs give us the best opportunity to provide the most resources at these events and we need the part-time officers to work with and lead them.

Rasmussen stated the total request is: \$25,000 for the additional CSOs, \$35,000 for part-time officers, and \$75,000 for overtime for a total of \$135,000. Bliven asked them to at least fund the \$60,000 for the CSOs and officers. Following discussion consensus of the committee was to reduce the funding to \$60,000 for the Special Event Staffing.

Groat stated at the last meeting the implementation of the pay plan was discussed in regard to giving the employees that belonged above midpoint an extra step. The committee was told the cost was approximately \$22,000, but some employees are funded out of other revenue sources, such as the CDA. She stated the funding breakdown is: \$13,000 from the levy; \$2,704 from the CDA; \$1,664 from Metro Ride; and \$4,243 from the Water & Sewer Utility. Rasmussen clarified this would give the qualified individuals one extra step as opposed to full implementation of Option 3 which would be over \$100,000.

Rasmussen questioned City Assessor Rick Rubow if all of the allocated positions in Assessment are currently filled and if this request is for an added staff person and not filling a vacancy. She noted this adds almost three cents to the mill rate. Rubow confirmed it is one extra position beyond their current staff which would take them back to a full department. Mayor Rosenberg commented perhaps this is an opportunity to work with the county.

Rasmussen stated the Social Media Videographer started out in the Police Department in a promotional capacity, but now almost every department could use the services of a skilled videographer. This is just under two cents on the

mill rate for a year. The Police Department would hire and supervise the person, but would be lent out to other city functions that need work done. Discussion followed regarding a Communication Specialist. Consensus was for a half year or mid-year hire of videographer.

Committee consensus was to hold off on funding the Street Maintainer at DPW, the Recreational Supervisor at Parks, as well as the Preservation Coordinator for the tree canopy for one year.

Committee Consensus Recap

Supplemental Requests Funded: Mental Health Evaluation; the Motor Pool Contracted Services; Special Events Staffing at \$60,000; Physical Therapy/Athletic Training; Two-way radios; Hiring Videographer mid-year; Extra Step for Qualified Employees beyond midpoint. (Use of savings for the Update Recreation Plan)

Supplemental Requests Not Funded: Property Appraiser; Street Maintainer, Recreation Supervisor or Preservation Coordinator.

Communications

Groat stated the Budget Public Hearing will take place on November 10, 2020. The state statutes provide for publication of a summary budget in the newspaper at least 15 days before the hearing, which would be October 26, 2020. She indicated she would add the supplemental requests they have recommended.

Groat questioned if they wanted the WOZ Development included in the budget publication. She noted changes can be made after publication. Rasmussen felt if we believe that at some point next year we may be interested in participating in that project we should disclose it now for transparency. Consensus to include it.

Ryan requested the next budget session include departmental presentations on their savings due to Covid and canceled events and to give a synopsis of what their unspent budgets for 2020 might look like.

Adjourn

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.