

FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION #3

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

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

Others Present: Groat, Rosenberg, Van Krey, Barteck, Bliven, Barnes, Jacobson, Klein, Lenz, Lindman, Polley, Rubow, Vanderboom, 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 meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Rasmussen.

2021 Budget deliberation and recommendation to the Common Council

Rasmussen reviewed the supplemental request decisions from the previous meeting. The net impact is just under five cents (4.8) on the mill rate.

Groat noted that based upon the committee's direction she had modified the budget for the mall redevelopment project and included it into the budget publication. The changes included adding in TID #12 the street improvements of \$1.2 million, the developer grant of \$3.5 million, and the proceeds from notes of \$4.7 million; and deduct out of TID #8 the second payment to WOZ based on the original developer agreement. She noted actual spending for the redevelopment project will be authorized if Council approves the redevelopment project and developer agreement.

Groat stated Assessor Rick Rubow requested an opportunity to speak regarding his supplemental request for a Property Appraiser since his audio on WebEx was unable to be heard at the previous meeting.

Groat explained when the TID #8 Project Plan was amended UWSP Marathon Campus, Marathon Park, and the Highway Department was added because the county had plans to upgrade those facilities. The county would like to do a Master Plan for that area at a total cost of \$80,000; the county has \$50,000 in their 2021 CIP for that plan and they are asking the city to contribute \$30,000. This is an eligible project cost of TID #8. She indicated she received a request from Parks Director Jamie Polley to also consider this before concluding the 2021 budget work. Polley explained the vision for the plan and discussion followed. Consensus was to include this item in the budget.

Rick Rubow, City Assessor, stated the Assessment Office is the department that establishes the value for the City of Wausau and reports the values to the Department of Revenue, along with new construction, and ultimately is what affects the budget. Since the department was downsized in 2016 the market has picked up and there is approximately 24% more work than existed since 2013 when there was a staff of seven. New construction is being missed because we don't have the staff to do old inspection reviews. There are properties have not been inspected in the past 15 – 35 years. Many people work on their homes and many do so without building permits and that value isn't found until the property sells. He stated the extra position will allow staff to do these older inspections that we don't have the time to do now. Discussion followed on the status of the new software. Rasmussen stated this position is just under 3 cents on the mill rate, however they may be able to reclaim enough value to offset much of the expense. Consensus was to include the position in the budget.

Groat stated historically we've tried to add new positions midyear, taking a two year approach to stepping them into the budget. She indicated Rubow would like to start this position right away in January because he currently has a vacancy in the department. Both could be trained at once and there is also quite a long onboarding due to necessary certifications through the state. She proposed funding half of this additional FTE with the levy in 2021 and the other half carryover from savings from the vacancy in 2020.

Department Heads present provided individual departmental budget updates.

This budget session can be viewed in its entirety: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aN8aoC7FOU>

Adjourn

Motion by Herbst, second by Martens to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.