

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 @ 5:15 P.M., Council Chambers

Finance Committee Members Present: Michael Martens (C), Gary Gisselman (VC), Becky McElhaney, Chad Henke, Vicki Tierney

Human Resources Committee Members Present: Becky McElhaney (C), Gary Gisselman, Michael Martens, Vicki Tierney

Human Resources Committee Members Excused: Terry Kilian (VC)

Others Present: Mayor Diny, MaryAnne Groat, Eric Lindmen, Jeremy Kopp, Matt Barnes

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Martens called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M.

Minutes of the previous meeting (11/12/2024).

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action establishing the water utility tax equivalent.

Tierney questioned what would happen should this be reduced. It was stated this would cause a deficit in the 2025 budget and would not have a direct impact on utility rates.

Henke questioned the calculation set by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission for setting the tax equivalent. It was stated this was based on the value of assets times the tax rate.

Martens stated it was a good idea to bring this back for consideration each year to discuss the matter and noted the capital improvement funds brought to the utility via ARPA allocations and federal funding.

Gisselman stated this matter should have come before the committee before the budget was passed. Gisselman stated an expectation that the utility would be in a better position to make more substantive changes to the tax equivalent.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Gisselman, to approve. Motion carried 3-2, with McElhaney and Tierney opposed.

Discussion and possible action on ARPA funding for Motor Pool rolling stock.

Martens questioned if these are rolling stock needs that were already slated for replacement. It was stated all the proposed rolling stock needs were slated for replacement except an articulating mower which was recommended to be purchased to reduce rollover on embanked property.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Henke, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on Production Agreement between Marathon County and City of Wausau.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Tierney, to approve. Motion carried.

Discussion and possible action on sale of Wausau Fire Department Ladder 2 and potential replacement purchase.

McElhaney stated concerns selling something that had liability and operations concerns and questioned if that puts the city at liability risk. It was stated there is no intention to not disclose the liability of the equipment.

Tierney stated concerns with the city selling something to another fire department when the city's fire department would not use it themselves. Tierney questioned if this would prompt the department to sell any equipment if it malfunctioned and lost the faith of the department members. Tierney stated it is not feasible to offload equipment every time there is a malfunction. It was stated the difference between those scenarios is the cause of this particular malfunction is still unknown.

McElhaney questioned when the equipment was purchased. It was stated this was purchased in 2021.

Tierney stated reservations with how recent the equipment was purchased and how soon it is being offloaded.

Martens questioned if this equipment would remain dormant at the station should it not be sold. It was stated the equipment may be used to a limited extent.

Gisselman questioned the litigation and if that had come before the Common Council and stated concerns selling the equipment while the litigation was ongoing. Gisselman stated a concern with putting the city's name on equipment being sold while under litigation.

Henke questioned how long it would be in between selling the equipment and purchasing new equipment and if there was a way to see if a more concrete purchase price of different equipment could be determined. It was stated that more work could be done to estimate the purchase price of different equipment. Henke stated a preference for the litigation to be discussed by the Public Health & Safety Committee before moving forward.

Martens stated a similar sentiment to Henke that the Finance Committee would be more comfortable moving forward after a discussion on litigation and different equipment costs and directed staff to move this item to the Public Health & Safety Committee for that further discussion.

Discussion and possible action approving and amendment and related budget modification to the Riverside Rail Corridor Remediation and Testing Report.

McElhaney questioned if this was coming out of the environmental fund. It was stated this was coming out of the contamination fund established by the former landfill.

Henke questioned if the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was requiring the city to remediate this area. It was stated the DNR was requiring this action.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by McElhaney, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Up to \$4,520,256 Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, and Providing for Other Details and Covenants with Respect Thereto.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding accepting the 2025 Beat Patrol Grant.

Gisselman questioned if this grant indicates if the city had a high crime rate and questioned that rate. It was stated the city is good a reporting crime which allows for the city to receive the grant. It was stated the crime rate is steady.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Henke, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program for the BIL SFY25 LSL Program in Year 2025.

Henke questioned if these funds could be used for public side main replacements. It was stated this wouldn't be used for main replacements instead being used for service lines. Henke stated residents were looking forward to the service lines being replaced.

McElhaney questioned the financing. It was stated future financing could utilize TID funding and general obligation debt provided for by the state. McElhaney stated concerns with future finances and affordability for the service line replacement project.

Tierney stated concerns with future levy raises based on increased debt.

Gisselman stated concerns with budget restraints which may cause future services by the city to be reduced.

Henke stated concerns with future costs of not moving forward when the cost-of-service line replacement may increase, and the funding may not be available. Henke stated regardless of a mandate for service line replacement, lead lines should be replaced so residents are not consuming lead.

Tierney stated lead lines should be removed and that more creative ways need to be explored to finance this project in the future.

McElhaney stated concerns with residents having service lines replaced at a cost to them in the future when a number of residents already had their service lines replaced at no cost.

Henke stated the service lines would still be replaced but at a significantly lower rate than what is currently being undertaken.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action authorizing the issuance of a purchase order to CCITC to obligate ARPA ERP fund for the completion of the ERP project including HR, payroll, accounting, accounts receivable, accounts payable, cashiering, asset management, reporting, banking, debt management, budgeting, forecasting, depreciation, and budget reporting and authorizing CCITC to enter into any agreements for service including subscription service to further the ERP project implementation.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Henke, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

JOINT AGENDA ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION WITH THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson McElhaney called the meeting to order at 6:25 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(b) of the Wisconsin State statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, for the purpose of discussing the tentative bargaining agreements with the Wausau Professional Police Association and the Wausau Firefighter Association Local 415, IAFF, AFL-CIO and CLC.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to convene the Finance Committee in Closed Session.

Roll Call Vote - Yes: Henke, Tierney, McElhaney, Gisselman, Martens; No: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Martens, seconded by Gisselman, to convene the Human Resources Committee in Closed Session.

Roll Call Vote – Yes: Tierney, Martens, Gisselman, McElhaney; No: None. Motion carried 4-0.

CONVENED into Closed Session.

RECONVENED into Open Session for discussion and possible action on the approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Wausau Professional Police Association and the Wausau Firefighter Association Local 415, IAFF, AFL-CIO and CLC.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to accept the Wausau Professional Police Association contract for the Finance Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Gisselman, to accept the Wausau Professional Police Association contract for the Human Resources Committee. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Martens, to adjourn the meeting of the Human Resources Committee. Motion carried. Motion by Henke, seconded by McElhaney, to adjourn the meeting of the Finance Committee. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyLF9FSIvL8>