

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 23, 2010
Senior Center – Main Hall

Chairperson Scott McMeans called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Present: Alderpersons, Scott McMeans, Christopher Able, Allan Schema, Matt Kadow, and Alex Olson.

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Interim Finance Director/Treasurer Tony Scherer, Alderpersons Jason Sladky, James Brey, and Nicholas Levendusky, Chief of Police Oscar Dick, Fire Chief Bill Manis, City Planner David Less, Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer, Director of Public Works/City Engineer Valerie Mellon, DPW Operations Manager Randy Junk, DPW Fleet Manager Kevin Glaeser, DPW Business Manager Mike Huck, Transit & Cemetery Manager Derek Muench, Interim Assistant Parks Director Jeremy Crees, Assistant Recreation Director Denise Larson , various city employees, members of the public and HTR reporter Charlie Mathews.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Alderperson Kadow and second by Alderperson Able to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 City Budget

The Committee continued the process of examining the 2011 Executive Budget proposal. Alderperson Scott McMeans began the meeting with a discussion on the 2011 proposed capital items.

Alderman McMeans motioned, second by Alderperson Kadow to defund \$290,000 from the Lincoln Park Roadways. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Olson to remove \$10,000 for the Community Garden and remove \$60,000 for the tennis courts. Discussion followed regarding the options for what would be placed in the area vacated by the tennis courts including green space and a community garden. Motion passed: 4 ayes (McMeans, Olson, Able, Schema), 1 nay (Kadow).

Alderperson McMeans motioned, second by Alderperson Olson to remove the Lower Trail Schuette Park Repair of \$100,000 and the dog park for \$30,000.

Mayor Nickels explained the contents of the project included the removal of the deteriorated exercise equipment, rebuilding the 2 miles of pathways and repairing the

steps that are in disrepair. Committee discussion followed regarding the park priorities in the Mayor's proposal and areas of compromise.

Aldersperson McMeans amended his motion to fund the Schuette Park Lower Trail Repairs at \$50,000 and remove Red Arrow Roadway for 190,000. Further discussion followed regarding the merits of the replacing the Red Arrow Roadway.

The original motion passes unanimously.

Motion by Aldersperson Olson to amend the amended amount for the Schuette Park Lower Trail Repairs from \$50,000 to \$15,000. Motion fails for lack of a second.

The amended motion passes unanimously.

Motion by Aldersperson McMeans, second by Aldersperson Kadow to defund various park playground equipment from \$20,000 to \$10,000. The Mayor sited his reasoning for the request was to bring playgrounds into compliance with the American's with Disability Act. Discussion followed as to the City's liability regarding the issue of ADA compliance. Aldersperson McMeans tabled his motion until further information can be gathered regarding ADA compliance issues.

Aldersperson Schema questioned some of the smaller capital items (amounts) in the budget. Interim Finance Director/Treasurer Tony Scherer provided a short explanation defining the City's capital policy.

Aldersperson McMeans then directed the budget conversation to Aldersperson Able regarding the sale of City assets. Alderman Able explained that he saw no short term answer and that the assets would need to be reviewed in order to come up with a viable list of sellable assets. City Planner David Less provided the Committee with examples of past sales and how sales have come about in the past.

Motion by Aldersperson McMeans, second by Aldersperson Schema to reduce the various budgeted health insurance accounts to express a reduction in health insurance premiums from 6 to 4%, for a total reduction of \$72,888. Motion passes unanimously.

The budget discussions then turned to the remainder of the budget disparity.

Motion by Aldersperson Kadow, second by Aldersperson Able to transfer \$1,400,000 from the City's General Fund Balance to be placed in the 2011 City Budget. The Committee then discussed the merits of the motion including the City's other options. At the conclusion of the discussion Aldersperson Kadow rescinded his motion.

Motion by Aldersperson Olson, second by Aldersperson Able to move the 2011 budget discussions to the Committee of the Whole. Discussions followed as to whether to continue the budget deliberations at the Committee of the Whole level or move them directly to the Common Council. Aldersperson Olson rescinded his motion

Motion by Alderperson Olson, second by Alderperson Able to move forward the unbalanced 2011 City Budget as amended to the Common Council. Motion passes unanimously.

Alderperson McMeans thanked the Committee, the Alderpersons, employees and others for their interest and participation in the 2011 City Budget discussions.

Motion by Alderperson Olson and second by Alderperson Able to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson McMeans declared the meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Alderperson Scott McMeans
Chairperson
Finance Committee

By: Anthony J. Scherer
Interim Finance Director

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