

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 28, 2011

City Hall – Council Chambers

Chairperson Scott McMeans called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

Present: Alderpersons, Scott McMeans, Christopher T. Able, Matt Kadow, Collin Braunel and Alex Olson.

Absent: None

Also Present: Acting Finance Director/Treasurer Tony Scherer, Alderpersons Jill Hennessey, Dave Soeldner, Alan Schema and Jason Sladky, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Jennifer Hudon, Police Chief Tony Dick, Fire Chief Bill Manis, Deputy Fire Chief Gregg Kadow, Deputy Fire Chief Todd Blaser, City Planner David Less, Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer, Director of Public Works/Parks & Recreation and City Engineer Valerie Mellon, Deputy Director of Public Works/Parks & Recreation and City Engineer Greg Minikel, DPW Operations Manager Randy Junk, Fleet Manager Kevin Glaeser, Assistant DPW Operations Manager Chad Scheinoha, DPW Business Manager Mike Huck, Recreation and Zoo Supervisor Jeremy Crees, Recreation and Senior Center Manager Denise Larson Director of the Rahr-West Museum Greg Vadney, Finance Business Manager Kim Lynch, DPW Business Manager Mike Huck, various city employees and members of the public.

Approval Of Minutes

Motion by Alderperson Able, second by Alderperson Olson to approve the minutes of November 21st 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

Alderman McMeans opened the meeting for public input. No members of the public accepted his invitation to speak.

Discussion and Possible Action on 2012 City Budget

Chairman McMeans opened the discussion with a review of the Springsted Report and framed the budget process going forward. Alderperson Olson expressed his discontent with the report as a whole. Alderperson Able expressed his opinion that the report gave the City what they had asked for and it was up to the Committee and Council to take the report findings and act on them. Alderman Able mentioned that one thing Sprengstead failed to mention was the .7% increase in levy available to the City.

Motion by Alderperson Able, second by Alderperson Kadow to increase the levy by .7% as allowed by State Statute. approve the minutes of November 21st 2011. Motion passed 4-1 with Alderperson Olson voting in the minority.

Discussion followed clarifying that the motion was pertaining to the percent of growth in the city. Acting Finance Director/Treasurer Tony Scherer explained that this money was placed in the budget and was contained in the Mayor's recommended budget.

Motion by Alderperson Able, second by Alderperson Braunel to rescind the previous motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Alderperson McMeans continued with a discussion regarding operational cost reductions. Alderperson Olson requested that the Mayor present his labor savings calculations to the Committee and Council. Discussions followed and information examined. The Springsted report stated that their staff believes that the City can reduce operating costs by another \$500,000 to \$850,000. Alderperson McMeans stated that he would like to place a contra account into the budget to reflect these savings and have the Mayor and his staff identify them at a later time.

Motion by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Able to place \$655,000 in a contra expense account in the 2012 budget be removed from operations and identified later. Motion passed unanimously.

A lengthy discussion regarding health insurance and health insurance options were discussed by the Committee.

Stormwater costs were the next point of discussion by the Committee. There was discussion regarding the form and function regarding the formation and operations of a stormwater “commission”. Alderperson Olson suggested a charge to individual homeowners/residents for brush and leaf removal.

Motion by Alderperson Able, second by Alderperson Kadow to create a revenue account in the 2012 budget in the amount of \$1,440,000, the revenues to be obtained through stormwater assessments and fees. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the form and function regarding the formation and operations of a stormwater “commission”. Alderperson McMeans brought forth a friendly amendment to adjust the amount to \$1,171,000. Alders were agreeable to the amendment. Motion passed 3 Ayes and 2 Nays with Alderperson Olson and Braunel dissenting.

Other topics of discussed by the Committee included Park lawn maintenance, Recreation user fees, Planning Department revenues, benefits to part-time employees, utility right of way fees, property tax increase, short-term borrowing, the Armory building, and Evergreen Cemetery revenues.

Motion by Alderperson Olson, second by Alderperson Able to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairperson McMeans declared the meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Alderperson Scott McMeans
Chairperson
Finance Committee

By: Anthony J. Scherer
Interim Finance Director

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