

# JOINT FINANCE and PUBLIC PROPERTY & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 15, 2012

City Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room #111 - West

Finance Chairperson Scott McMeans called the meeting to order at 6:27 PM

Present: Alderpersons Scott McMeans, Christopher Able, James Brey, Collin Braunel, Eric Sitkiewitz, Jill Hennessey & Tyler Martell

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Alderperson Jason Sladky, Finance Director/Treasurer Steve Corbeille, Assistant Finance Director/Treasurer Tony Scherer, Fire Chief Bill Manis, Deputy Fire Chief Todd Blaser, Deputy Fire Chief Gregg Kadow (6:12), Library Director Cherilyn Stewart, Building Inspector Bill Jindra, Director of Public Works & City Engineer Val Mellon, Engineering Administrative Assistant Karen Dorow, HTR Reporter Charlie Mathews, other city employees and various members of the public.

## **Public Input**

Mary Schilder, 1423 South 31<sup>st</sup> Street (Police & Fire Commissioner). Ms. Schilder expressed her concerns regarding the \$309,000 in cuts from the Fire Department being proposed in the 2013 Budget. She expressed her opinion that the cuts would create unsafe conditions for firefighters and citizens.

## **Proposed Changes to the Fire Dept. Budget in the 2013 City Budget**

Chairman McMeans invited Fire Chief Bill Manis to present information prepared by the Fire Department. Manis proceeded to provide a PowerPoint presentation to the Committees, demonstrating his proposal. Due to time constraints, the Chief was unable to present his PowerPoint in its entirety although he was able to cover the highlights of his presentation. The Chief pointed out areas in which the Fire Department has made improvements. The improvements he pointed out included: personnel (becoming Critical Care Paramedics, enhancing revenues); outsourcing EMS billing, increased benefit cost sharing, reductions in starting pay for new firefighters and overtime savings due to FEMA grant. Manis also expressed his concern over the removal of the new ambulance from the 2013 capital funding. He also provided the Committee with a number of statistics as they relate to current staffing and the department's firefighting abilities. Manis concluded with a discussion on the Insurance Safety Rating (ISO). He explained that residential and business property owners will experience a 5% to 7% drop in insurance rates if the City's ISO rating drops from 3 to 2. The Chief then ran down a list of ideas and savings, that if implemented, would reduce the department's budget by more than the \$309,000 reduction proposed by the Mayor.

The Committee followed up with some questions and comments. A short discussion followed regarding the FEMA grant, its benefits and drawbacks, the accuracy of some published information in the Mayor's Budget presentation, ambulance turnover, and volunteer/mutual aid services & support.

Motion by Alderperson Sitkiewitz, second by Alderperson Braunel to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman McMeans declared the meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alderman Scott McMeans  
By: Anthony Scherer  
Assistant Finance Director

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