

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 12, 2012
City Hall – 1st Floor Conference Room #111 - West

Finance Chairperson Scott McMeans called the meeting to order at 5:42 PM

Present: Alderpersons Scott McMeans, Christopher Able (late), James Brey, Collin Braunel & Eric Sitkiewitz

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Alderpersons Dave Soeldner, Jill Hennessey, Jason Sladky (6:26), Finance Director/Treasurer Steve Corbeille, Assistant Finance Director/Treasurer Tony Scherer, Police Chief Oscar Dick, Deputy Fire Chief Gregg Kadow, Assistant City Planner Paul Braun, Library Director Cheryl Stewart, Buildings & Grounds/Transit & Recreation Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer, Director of Public Works & City Engineer Val Mellon, Deputy Director of Public Works & City Engineer Greg Minikel, Building Inspector Rick Schwarz, HTR Reporter Charlie Mathews, other city employees and various members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Alderperson Brey, second by Alderperson Braunel to approve the minutes of November 5th, 2012 Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Public Input

No public input was presented.

2013 Proposed City Budget

Alderman McMeans summarized the Committee's progress on the 2013 budget, reviewing items on a spreadsheet prepared by the Finance Office. Finance Director/Treasurer Steve Corbeille explained the changes in Worker's Compensation Insurance. McMeans then covered the items previously acted upon by the Committee.

Motion by Alderperson Braunel, second by Alderperson Sitkiewitz to keep the 2012 tax levy rate the same as for 2011.

Alderperson Brey and Sitkiewitz both spoke out against the motion expressing that they felt it was premature to bring the issue up for a vote at this time. Chairman McMeans called for the vote. Motion failed 1-3 with Brey, Sitkiewitz, and McMeans dissenting.

Alderman Brey then brought forth discussion of the Police Department Grant. Police Chief Oscar Dick and Finance Director/Treasurer Steve Corbeille explained the reasons for the application and its intended use. A short discussion followed regarding the timing of the budget and acceptance of the grant. Finance Committee members agreed that Council should make a final decision regarding the acceptance or rejection of the grant at the December 3rd meeting in order to provide a conclusion to the process.

Chairman McMeans then guided the discussion to the \$350 continuing education training request for the upkeep of certifications for the City's previous Building Inspector. Approval of this training would provide a safeguard for the City and keep opportunities open for future needs within the Inspection Department.

Motion by Alderperson Brey, second by Alderperson Braunel to reinstate the amount of \$350 to account 1100-23100-532500 for training and certification purposes. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

The Committee continued to deliberate the 2013 Budget.

Motion by Alderperson Brey, second by Alderperson Braunel to place \$28,857 of expense in the budget due to the repealing of special assessments for sealcoating by previous Council action, reduce the budget by \$22,890 for anticipated savings due to switching providers for worker's compensation insurance, add \$66,663 in expense to pay for Economic Development Corporation dues, previously omitted in the budget and reduce the worker's compensation insurance account by \$41,980 for savings due to position reductions in the 2012 Budget.

A short discussion regarding sealcoating revenues followed. Chairman McMeans called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Alderman McMeans then provided some background on the request to provide \$7,500 of funding for strategic planning.

Motion by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Able to place \$7,500 in the 2013 Budget for strategic planning purposes.

The Committee discussed the possible planning topics and the expected benefits of the \$7,500 investment. Motion passed (4-1) with Alderperson Brey dissenting.

The Committee then took up the subject of cell phones within the Police Department budget. The Committee discussed the need for the phones and the contract obligations with the cell phone company.

Motion by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Sitkiewitz to add \$10,000 to the current contingency balance of \$237,389 for possible police department cell phone use in 2013.

Discussion followed. Alderperson Brey made a friendly amendment to the motion to designate \$10,000 of the contingency account (1100-19100-539000) to the 2013 Police Department cellphone expense accounts previously reduced in the Mayor's 2013 Proposed Budget. The amendment was second by Alderperson Braunel. The amended motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Alderperson McMeans then motioned to place the 2012 tax levy rate at the same level as 2011, essentially adding \$203,653 in revenue, reinstate \$10,000 to Marina Dock Repairs, and reinstate \$17,880 to the Manitowoc Public Library. Motion 2nd by Alderman Able.

Alderman Brey brought forth an amendment to reduce the contingency fund by \$37,389, effectively reducing account 1100-19100-539000 to \$200,000. The amendment was not accepted by Alderman McMeans. The Amendment died for lack of a second.

The Committee then had a discussion regarding the Manitowoc Public Library funding level.

Amendment by Alderperson Brey, second by Alderperson Able to appropriate \$32,000 from the contingency account 1100-19100-539000 to the levy supporting the Manitowoc Public Library Fund.

The Committee had a short conversation regarding both the contingency and Library Funds.

Chairman McMeans called for the vote on Alderperson Brey's Amendment. Motion passed (4-1) with Alderperson Sitkiewitz dissenting.

Chairman McMeans then called for the vote on the original motion. Motion passed (4-1) with Alderperson Sitkiewitz dissenting.

Motion by Alderperson Brey, second by Alderperson McMeans to reduce General Transportation Aids (account 1100-32200-424410) by \$111,027 and increase Connecting Highway Aids (account 1100-32200-424415) by \$1,239 for a total reduction of \$109,788 to the 2013 Proposed Budget. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Motion by Alderperson Brey, second by Alderperson Able to move the 2013 Budget to the Common Council recommending approval of the 2013 Executive Budget as amended by the Finance Committee. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Motion by Alderperson Brey, second by Alderperson Braunel to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman McMeans declared the meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alderman Scott McMeans
By: Anthony Scherer
Assistant Finance Director

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