

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 11, 2009
City Hall - First Floor Hearing Room East

Chairperson James Brey called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Present: Alderpersons, James N. Brey, Christopher T. Able, Dean W. Graunke, Eric J. Sitkiewitz, and Jill C. Hennessey.

Absent: None

Also Present: Finance Director/Treasurer Brian Ruechel, Assistant Finance Director Tony Scherer, Mayor Justin Nickels, Alderpersons Ray Geigel, Dave Soeldner, Jason Sladky and Scott McMeans, Fire Chief Bill Manis, Park and Recreation Director Joe McLafferty, DPW Business Manger Mike Huck, Fleet Manager Kevin Glaeser, and the news media.

2010 City Budget

The Committee continued the process of examining the 2010 executive budget proposal.

The committee discussed the Fire Department's request to restore the Fire Department utility pickup truck to the 2010 City Budget. Finance Director/Treasurer Brian Ruechel presented a proposal to fund the vehicle through a combined elimination of council member laptop replacement and savings through the delayed hiring of a new firefighter. Fire Chief Bill Manis and Fleet Manager Kevin Glaeser presented additional information and support for the plan. Discussion from the committee followed.

Motion by Alderperson Sitkiewitz, second by Alderperson Able to restore the Fire Department pickup truck in the amount of \$34,569 to the 2010 City budget under the plan proposed by the Finance Office. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Bill Manis went on record stating that the elimination of the Fire Department's request for a new ambulance in the 2010 City budget may require the City to consider the purchase of two ambulances in 2011.

The Committee then addressed the issue of assessments for decorative street lighting. The Committee, as well as others in attendance, proceeded to engage in a lengthy discussion regarding special assessments, their merits and drawbacks as well as the philosophies behind them.

Motion by Alderperson Sitkiewitz, second by Alderperson Hennessey to re-establish the special assessment revenues totaling \$12,500 in the 2010 City budget. Motion passed three to two with alderpersons Graunke and Able voting nay. Alderperson Brey stated that he was not fully convinced regarding the matter, but voted in the affirmative in order to bring the issue forward for full council deliberation.

The Committee then took up the discussion of the proposed new website redesign and other information technology requests in the 2010 City Budget. Discussion followed regarding the value and importance redesigning the City's website. The committee also discussed financing options and alternatives for capital items with shorter life expectancies.

Other items brought forth for discussion were the use of special assessment revenues and Stormwater expenses.

Finance Director/Treasurer Brian Ruechel informed the Committee that the final assessment numbers had not yet been received from the State of Wisconsin, but expected them later in the week. Once received, he would make the necessary and appropriate adjustments to the 2010 proposed City Budget in order that everything would be in ready for Monday night's Council Meeting.

The Committee agreed to continue discussions on the 2010 proposed City Budget on Monday, November 16th, 2009, at 5:45 PM, prior to the regularly scheduled Common Council Meeting.

Chairperson Brey declared the meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Aldersperson James N. Brey
Chairperson
Finance Committee

By: Anthony J. Scherer
Assistant Finance Director