

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 3, 2009
City Hall - First Floor Hearing Room West

Chairperson James Brey called the meeting to order at 5:00 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, and Scott McMeans, Fire Chief Bill Manis, Park and Recreation Director Joe McLafferty, City Attorney Julie Ruenzel, Human Resources Director/Risk Manager Kristen Clark, Director of Public Works/City /Engineer Valerie Melon, Police Chief Tony Dick, Rahr-West Museum Director Barb Bundy-Jost, Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer, DPW Business Manger Mike Huck, Fleet Manager Kevin Glaeser, Deputy Fire Chiefs Greg Kadow, Todd Blaser, Friends of the Aquatic Center Damon Cattani, and the news media.

2010 City Budget

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

Friends of the Aquatic Center Damon Cattani addressed the Committee regarding resident and non-resident fees for the aquatic center.

Mayor Justin Nickels addressed the Committee in support of a resident and nonresident fee structure for the aquatic center.

Discussion followed about the fee structure that is contained in the proposed 2010 aquatic center budget. The budget supports a standard fee for the aquatic center recommended by the Park and Recreation Board.

Motion by Alderperson Sitkiewitz and second by Alderperson Hennessey to support the standard fee structure recommended by the Park and Recreation Board in the 2010 aquatic center budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Valerie Melon addressed the Committee on a reflectivity meter that was not funded, general comments regarding the deterioration of public works infrastructure, and lack of monetary support for the fleet replacement program.

Finance Director/Treasurer Brian Ruechel distributed handouts detailing the expenditure restraint program, city financial policies, 2009 and 2010 debt analysis. Ruechel gave an explanation to Committee members on each of the handouts.

Fire Chief Bill Manis addressed the Committee asking for reconsideration of two capital equipment items not funded in the budget. The two items discussed were a new EMS Ambulance and a replacement vehicle for the current Ford F250 Heavy Duty Pickup Truck. Manis stated the new ambulance would be a front line vehicle for 5 years and a reserve vehicle for 5 more years. The replacement truck would be used to tow current rescue trailers and do all snow plowing for the department. Discussion followed regarding the two capital equipment items, other funding

sources such as grants that may be available, and the usage of other existing vehicles in the department.

The committee discussed the following budget items: Lincoln Park pathway overlays, alderpersons laptop replacement, DPW mechanic replacement hiring, adult entertainment fees, City Attorney and Human Resources service fee charges, expenditure restraint and shared revenue funding, and website redesign.

Motion by Alderperson Hennessey and second by Alderperson Graunke to defund the alderpersons laptops included in the 2010 bond issue. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Chairperson Jim Brey commented that the 2010 Bond Issue was funded in the Budget at \$4.9 million. Brey stated this did not include the \$1 million for the tax increment financing Dermatology project. This would bring the total 2010 Bond Issue to \$5.9 million.

Mayor Nickels stated that he did not place the \$1 million Dermatology project in the 2010 budget because this has yet to be approved by the City Council.

The Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 11th at 5:30 PM for a joint meeting of Finance and Personnel and then following this joint meeting the Finance Committee will continue the 2010 budget discussion.

Motion by Alderperson Hennessey and second by Alderperson Sitkiewitz to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Brey declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Alderperson James N. Brey
Chairperson
Finance Committee

By: Brian C. Ruechel, CGFM
Finance Director/Treasurer