

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUES
July 19, 2010
City Hall – First Floor Hearing Room West

Chairperson Scott McMeans called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

Present: Alderpersons, Scott McMeans, Christopher T. Able, Matt Kadow, Allan Schema, and Alex J. Olson.

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Justin M. Nickels, Alderperson Dave Soeldner, Chief of Police Oscar Dick, Interim Finance Director Tony Scherer, and DPW Business Manager Mike Huck.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Alderperson Able, second by Alderperson Kadow to approve the minutes of the July 08, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee 2011 Budget Priorities and Directives

Alders continued their discussion regarding the 2011 Budget Priorities and Directives. Interim Finance Director Tony Scherer provided a brief summary of a handout containing financial performance ratios. Alderperson Alex Olson supplied the committee with additional calculations using the information provided by the Finance Office. Discussion of the information followed. Alderperson Scott McMeans stated that the ratios were a good start and that the Committee should review the financial indicators more frequently and use them as a benchmark against comparable cities.

Alderperson McMeans then directed the discussion to the 2011 Budget Priorities and Directives referencing the 2010 list of directives. Alderperson McMeans brought forth four of the directives he felt should be addressed by staff on an annual basis, removing them from the priority and directives list and placing them in the budget instruction document provided to staff to guide them in the preparation of their departmental budgets. Alderperson Olson requested that each of the items be voted on individually.

Motion by alderperson Able, second by alderperson Kadow to remove the following “standard requests” from the budget priorities and directives list and place them in the budget instructions for distribution to department heads.

- 1) Departments should maximize all statutory revenue sources to the highest amounts allowed. Motion passed 4:1 with Alderperson Olson voting nay.

- 2) Departments should examine and investigate new sources of revenue and submit them to the mayor for budget approval. Motion passed 4:1 with Alderperson Olson voting nay.
- 3) Departments should analyze current projected expenditures for cost reduction efficiencies to be implemented in the upcoming budget. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Human Resource Department should explore other health insurance programs and/or options for potential savings when compared to existing health insurance programs. Motion passed unanimously.

Alderperson McMeans continued the discussion of the 2011 Budget Priorities and Directives. Led by alderperson McMeans the committee deliberated on the following items:

- 1) Cap the incurrence of new debt to retired debt at the same percentage as the 2010 budget
- 2) Set the property rate level at zero percent or to provide the mayor a percentage range
- 3) Increase the amount of special assessment revenues going for debt reduction by 5% over the 2010 designation
- 4) Propose department heads reduce a budget account line by 5%
- 5) Request the mayor prioritize the city capital project requests for review and approval by the Finance Committee.

Due to time constraints it was agreed to continue the discussion of priorities and directives at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2011, at 4:30PM.

Motion by Alderperson Olson, second by Alderperson Able to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Alderperson Scott Mc Means Chairperson
Finance Committee

By: Anthony J Scherer
Interim Finance Director