

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
November 11, 2010  
City Hall - First Floor Council Chambers

Chairperson Scott McMeans called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Interim Finance Director Tony Scherer, Alderpersons Dave Soeldner, Jill Hennessey, Jason Sladky and James Brey, City Attorney Juliana Ruenzel, Police Chief Oscar Dick, Fire Chief Bill Manis, City Clerk/Asst Treasurer Jennifer Hudon, City Planner David Less, Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer, City Assessor Sarah Hoppe, Public Library Director Cherilyn Stewart, Wastewater Treatment Facility Superintendent Brian Helminger, MPU Data Processing Manager Gary Heim, DPW Business Manager Mike Huck, Transit & Cemetery Manager Derek Muench, city employees and members of the public (see attached).

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Alderperson Kadow and second by Alderperson Able to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2010 Finance Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**2011 City Budget**

The Committee continued the process of examining the 2011 Executive Budget proposal. Alderman Scott McMeans began by focusing the conversation on the use of \$1,750,000 of Wastewater Treatment Facility Fund Balance to balance the 2011 City Budget. Alderman McMeans suggested that this issue come before the full Council for discussion and action at the November 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting prior to moving forward as this issue would dictate the direction the Finance Committee would take for further discussions.

A discussion followed regarding Council authority over Wastewater funds. Mayor Nickels provided a handout of the ordinance and Alderperson James Brey explained to the Committee that the Common Council has the final authority.

Motion by Alderperson Kadow and second by Alderperson Able to recommend the approval of a \$1,753,000 transfer from the Wastewater Treatment Facility Fund Balance to the Debt Service Fund for the City of Manitowoc 2011 Budget. Discussion on the motion followed.. Motion passed; 3 votes aye (Kadow, Able, Schema), 2 votes nay (McMeans, Olson).

Discussion continued with the Mayor handing out a report of previous years increases in expenditures showing a decrease for the 2011 Budget of \$115,000 after average increases of over \$900,000 annually. The Mayor explained that previous budgets used one time revenues to balance and there are none for 2011.

The Committee then discussed the problem of trying to find ways of matching the City's expenses with the available revenues to cover monetary shortfalls. Some of the topics discussed included stormwater, tax rates, special assessments and general fund balance. Alderperson McMeans stated he would like to look at possible savings in the areas of insurance, supplies, overtime, training and travel.

The Finance Committee continued budget deliberations with discussions regarding the following budget items: Park and Recreation capital expenditure requests, stormwater, debt, general fund capital items, furloughs and layoffs, spending and debt trends, Citizen Park building improvements, environmental remediation, Red Arrow Park roadways and Economic Development Corporation.

The Finance Committee instructed the Finance Department to gather information regarding labor costs, overtime, current and future staffing needs, supplies, travel, phone services, subscriptions, periodicals and other various expenditures.

The Committee will meet again on Wednesday, November 17th at 5:30 PM to continue the 2011 budget discussion.

Motion by Alderperson Kadow and second by Alderperson Schema to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson McMeans declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Alderperson Scott McMeans  
Chairperson  
Finance Committee

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By: Anthony J. Scherer  
Interim Finance Director

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