

FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION #4

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 @ 6:00 pm., Board Room

Members Present: Winters, Nutting, Nagle, Oberbeck

Members Absent: Kellbach

Others Present: Wagner, Rasmussen, Tipple, Groat, Giese, Duncanson, Jacobson, Hardel, Hebert, Kujawa, Klein, Mohelnitzky, Chmiel, Tony Patterson, Cheryl Bahr

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Winters.

Public Comment on matters appearing on the agenda.

None

Winters explained that the committee tonight will go over these topics: Special Revenue, Debt Service, Capitol Projects, Internal Service Funds, Enterprise Funds, and TIF Districts and Addendum's 4 and 5. Addendum 5 will be discussed first as that will have the most questions from Department Heads.

Discussion and possible action on a budget recommendation on a budget recommendation resolution for the City Council.

Three handouts were distributed for discussion. Winters recommended that a budget resolution be drafted in two parts: a targeted levy limit and List of Priorities. These would be forwarded for debate by the full Council and the Council could amend it. Survey results of priorities were reviewed. Rasmussen was concerned about across the board cuts and possible elimination of positions that have been that have been getting results on city goals. Bill Duncanson pointed out the \$58,018 indicated for the Parks Department was the increase for wages and benefits just to stay at 2014 staffing level; it was not an increase in expenditures or positions. Wagner suggested cutting or putting off the other two pools.

Winters questioned if they wanted to make amendments now or do them on the Council floor. Wagner felt a budget should come out of the Finance Committee to go forward to the public hearing for citizen input first. Rasmussen felt the budget document before them with the addition of the school safety plan that was left out should be where we start from. Mayor Tipple clarified he totally supported the school safety plan, but it was decided it was not possible to add it to a budget that was already challenged to begin with. Oberbeck felt we have to reduce the budget as we are on an unsustainable path. Nagle commented we have a certain way our city has been doing business and if we are going to continue on that path we have to raise taxes or change the way we deliver services. He was opposed to cutting street maintenance.

Motion by Nagle, second by Nutting to approve the Mayor's budget as presented with the addition of the two school safety officer positions.

Motion by Nagle, second by Nutting to amend the budget to restore \$243,289 to the Public Works budget. Motion failed on a 2-2 tie.

Vote on the main motion to adopt the Mayor's budget and two additional safety officers. Motion carried 3-1. (*Winters was the dissenting vote.*)

Groat reviewed the Capital Projects Funds and the TIF Districts in detail.

Discussion and possible action regarding the 2015 budget and 2015 fee schedule.

Withdrawn

Questions and possible direction for staff regarding the cell phone contract, the Wausau Mine Company development agreement and the Bridge Street Investors Group development agreement.

Tipple stated the cell phone agreement has been executed and there are phones that need to be upgraded or purchased. He indicated the cell phone responsibilities will go back to the Finance Department. Wagner suggested the IT Department take that responsibility instead of Finance.

Jacobson clarified there is a difference between public construction contracts and a cell phone service contract, which would not be subject to the public construction statute. She stated they are constrained by their own purchasing policy that the Council adopted; it is not a law, an ordinance or a statute, it is their own policy and therefore they have the right as Council to override it should they feel the necessity.

Winters questioned if bills were sent to Wausau Mine and Bridge Street Investors Group and inquired as to their status. Tipple responded Ann Werth was in Chicago and would be the best person to answer these questions as he did not know the current status. He suggested they bring the item back to the next Finance agenda when she would be able to attend and answer.

Future Agenda Items

Groat indicated the 2015 BID Plan would be put on the next agenda, as well as the mid-year budget modification for the Fire Department. Winters requested a comprehensive budget modification.

Adjournment

Motion by Nagle, second by Oberbeck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.