

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION #3**

Date and Time: Thursday, October 6, 2016 @ 5:30 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Rasmussen (C), Smith, Kellbach, Gehin, Nutting

Others Present: Groat, Duncanson, Lindman, Jacobson, Kujawa, Mielke, Mohelnitzky, Neal, Goede.

#### **Addendum item:**

#### **Discussion and possible action regarding the sole source purchase of used salt conveyor for Department of Public Works**

Rasmussen stated there is a piece of equipment at DPW that has broken and through a search they have located a used piece at a substantial savings. Ric Mohelnitzky stated one of the salt spreaders had been damaged and was converted into a barrel filler and to add salt to our sand pile. It has rusted out because it sits outside all year. A new unit would cost \$75,000, but we found a used one through our dealer for \$40,000. He stated it was a good deal and that they had the money in the equipment fund of their budget.

Motion by Smith, second by Gehin to approve the sole source purchase of used salt conveyor for DPW. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Discussion and possible action regarding the 2017 budget and 2017 fee schedule**

Groat distributed the committee rankings of the supplemental requests. She noted Bill Duncanson was present to discuss the Parks Department requests because he was unaware of the last meeting.

Duncanson stated the Ash Borer is not here yet, but when it does get here we are going to want to start to treat it very soon. If it doesn't show up in the next year we are fine and can wait until 2018, but if we find it in the next few months we should start the chemical treatment portion. He indicated Park & Rec Committee had some discussion about the possibility of an Urban Forestry Fee, similar in concept to Wheel Tax. There are a number of municipalities that have implemented Urban Forestry Fees for emergencies or devastating things, such as an ice storm taking down 50% of the street trees. He felt it was something they could think about for possible a spring referendum.

Duncanson stated in 2011 the existing supervisor we had retired and for budget reasons we have been trying to get along without that position, but we've learned we haven't been able to do it. We have had to take higher level resource professionals and managers and have them do more supervision and lower end facility management. He felt reinstating the Maintenance Supervisor position will free up the upper level positions on both the city and the county, especially the city forestry position. He explained when Emerald Ash Borer hits we are going to have a lot of administration and program management. Groat noted based on the levy limit laws, if we create or increase a fee we have to reduce our levy by an equal amount, however, the urban forestry charge is not part of that, so this would be new revenue to the city.

Groat indicated she heard from the state and our Transportation Aids are not going up. The Parks health insurance was about \$25,000 savings; the health insurance savings for CCITC was about \$6,000; and extra money in the audit services of \$10,000 can be taken out. We are still waiting for the equalized values and manufacturing.

Duncanson stated through our county forestry we have a Conservation Aids Fund that can be used in a variety of ways. He indicated he found out this week that he will be able to use some of the money to apply to Schofield Park for next year which could be close to the entire \$5,000 requested.

Discussion followed regarding the supplemental request list and the lower ranked items. Nutting suggested moving the projects forward as they are now in total and they can be debated on the Council floor. Rasmussen indicated there would be a new spreadsheet emailed and updated information at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting.

Motion by Nutting, second by Gehin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.