

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 09, 2011
City Hall – Council Chambers

Chairperson Scott McMeans called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM

Present: Alderpersons, Scott McMeans, Christopher T. Able, Alex Olson and Collin Braunel.

Absent: Matt Kadow

Also Present: Mayor Justin Nickels, Acting Finance Director/Treasurer Tony Scherer, Alderpersons James Brey, Jill Hennessey, Dave Soeldner and Jason Sladky, Assistant City Attorney Kathleen McDaniel, Police Chief Tony Dick, City Planner David Less, Deputy City Planner Paul Braun. Fire Chief Bill Manis, Deputy Fire Chief Todd Blaser, City Clerk and Deputy Treasurer Jennifer Hudon, City Assessor Sarah Hoppe, Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer, Deputy Director of Building Inspection Rick Schwarz, Director of Public Works/Parks & Recreation and City Engineer Valerie Mellon, Deputy City Engineer Greg Minikel, Director of the Rahr-West Museum Greg Vadney, Personnel & Safety Coordinator Deb Geiger, Finance Business Manager Kim Lynch, DPW Business Manager Mike Huck, various city employees and members of the public.

Public Input

Alderman McMeans opened the meeting for public input. No members of the public accepted his invitation to speak.

Discussion and Possible Action on 2012 City Budget

Alderson McMeans turned the meeting over to Mayor Nickels. The Mayor introduced Vice President of Springsted (a public sector advisor) Joe Murray to the Council. Murray introduced his colleague, Vice President Kathleen Thomas as well. Mr. Murray gave a short introduction and overview of Springsted. He then explained their proposal which included the scope of work to be performed, the anticipated timetable, and contract price.

Motion by Alderson Able, second by Alderson Braunel to approve the contract with Springsted not to exceed \$28,000. The Committee further discussed their expectations with Springsted. Motion passed 3-1 with Alderman Olson casting the lone dissenting vote.

The next topic of discussion was Health Insurance. Personnel & Safety Coordinator Deb Geiger and insurance representative Mike Stolfus were on hand for the discussion. Alderson Scott McMeans reviewed a handout containing health insurance information and options with the Committee. The Committee discussed options including high deductables, HSA's, HRA's, flex accounts and blended premiums.

Motion by Alderperson Olson, second by Alderperson Able to instruct our insurance administrators to prepare plan options that would remove 15% (\$195,000) from the current health insurance premiums for all sections excluding public safety. Motion passed 4-0.

Engineering/DPW provided a handout to the Committee regarding a stormwater utility. Stormwater Aide Janet Sosnosky began the presentation and reviewed background information on stormwater legislation and requirements. DPW Business Manager Mike Huck took the conversation forward explaining the components of a stormwater utility and the philosophy of the billing structure. The Committee had a number of questions for the presenters and discussed the merits of the issue.

Motion by Alderperson Able, to add a revenue account into the 2012 budget and place \$1,416,493 in it to represent the creation of a stormwater utility. Motion died due to the lack of a second.

Alderperson Olson departed the meeting.

The Committee discussed the possible sale of assets. City Planner David Less and Deputy City Planner Paul Braun presented a number of maps and diagrams designating city owned property. Mr. Less suggested that this be a long term strategy and the Committee come up with 10-20 target properties. Director of Building Inspection/Facilities Manager Jim Muenzenmeyer presented a list of buildings and other city owned property. He pointed out that the values assigned were insurance values and only for the buildings and contents, not the land. Alderman McMeans mentioned that he thought they would need to sell \$30 million in assets in order to carry the City through its current financial difficulty.

Motion by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Able to forward the issue to the Public Property and Safety Committee to evaluate and develop a plan for the sale of City property and assets. Motion passed 3-0.

The next item to be taken up by the Committee was the city re-organization. Due to the departure of Alderperson Olson the Committee postponed this discussion.

Motion by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Braunel to move the re-organizaion discussion to the Committee of the Whole at a date to be set later. Motion passed 3-0.

The Committee also had a short conversation regarding contracted services within the Parks and Recreation division as well as the outsourcing of janitorial services in city buildings.

Motion by Alderperson McMeans, second by Alderperson Braunel to adjourn.
Motion carried unanimously. Chairperson McMeans declared the meeting adjourned at
7:30 PM.

Alderperson Scott McMeans
Chairperson
Finance Committee

By: Anthony J. Scherer
Interim Finance Director

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