

SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

OCTOBER 15, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Moede at 7:47 p.m. with the following Roll Call:

Members Present: Ald. Toellner, Ald. Sertich, Ald. Boelk, Ald. Pasbrig, Ald. Redeker, Ald. Schmidt

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mayor Moede, Deanna Boldrey, Kathie Wild, Jim Danielson, Brad Marx, Ron Wellner, Mike Kurutz, Chris MacNeill, Ryan Vossekul, Lisa Anderson, Mark Brown, Katie Leb

Item #2 – Discussion and Presentation of City Re-Evaluation and Assessment Services with Possible Action.
Accurate Appraisal and Associated Appraisals informed the Council that they will step out during the other's presentations. Jim Danielson of Accurate Appraisals came to the podium and gave a presentation. Mark Brown of Associated Appraisal came to the podium and gave a presentation.

Item #3 – Discussion of City Fire Department Inspections, Service Contract, and Fees with Possible Action.
The Clerk distributed a spreadsheet showing detail on the fire inspection fees. Fire Chief Brad Marx noted the quote from Fire Inspection Services and introduced the item. Brad commented that the City will save on liability. He commented that some of the inspections have not been done consistently. He continued that some businesses have not had an inspection in the past. He is working forward and getting the inspections done. The firemen with the certification are being hired by other municipalities. He commented on the continued cost of keeping someone certified. They keep track of the records and supply information for our records. It was noted that he will choose the best option. Brad commented that we should do option 2. It was noted that the City buildings will have to be inspected. Ald. Redeker commented that while we have a licensed City Inspector could that person do the inspections on City property. Most departments use the building maintenance account. The company only bills the municipalities. The City can turn around and bill the businesses. Ald. Boelk commented that this is a tax on the businesses. Right now the City is doing the inspections. Brad commented that he does not know if have the capability to do the inspections and the liability. Motion by Ald. Sertich, second by Ald. Schmidt to recommend the Fire Inspection Service Contract and Schedule of Fees. Motion carried 5-1, Ald. Boelk voted no.

Item #4 – Discuss/Review/Recommend 1st Draft of 2014 City Budget.

Water Wastewater Utility Budget

The Water Wastewater Utility Budget was then discussed as changes and updates to their budget. Ald. Sertich asked Ron to revisit the sewer fund 66-201-854 Social Security amount. She questioned the amount and if was correct. Ron commented that they did not adjust it. He continued that he will have to do it for both departments. She questioned 66-102-856, it is going down. Ron commented it is office wages. It is for the new person. He took the wage and put two months of Kate back in there. The retirement should not have stayed the same as the rate is going up and there is an overlap of people. Kathie Wild commented on the Holiday pay as it is going down. Ron noted that last year's number was incorrect and he has corrected it. Ron noted the salary in the water should be the same as the wastewater. Ron Wellner commented he will make the corrections.

The TAG Center transfer is \$113,981 and the same in the general fund.

The Fire Inspection wages is now \$11,400 for the contract. The items in the budget that are affected was \$10,087 in expenses. Increase of \$1,313, but if we charge the businesses back then that will be another \$11,400 in revenue so it would be a net effect of \$10,087 to the budget.

The Economic Development was then discussed, \$20,000. Mayor Moede commented that Doug did help us last year for free and did some good. He is confident that he can do it and our down town need revitalized. Motion by Ald. Sertich, second by Ald. Toellner to remove the item from the budget. Motion carried 6-0.

The Police Department Budget was then discussed. The education reimbursement for Officer Vossekuil was noted. The paperwork was available for review. Ald. Sertich commented that we have a couple of goals we still have to meet. Ald. Sertich gave history to the item from last year that we had a problem to make the \$365,000 and we were short \$21,000. We are in the same situation on it. We have not heard any feedback from the arbitrator. Ald. Boelk asked if we need to budget the \$2,000 just in case the arbitrator rules. Ald. Pasbrig noted to remain consistent to last year. Ald. Schmidt commented he agrees to with Ald. Boelk so that we are not caught short. Ald. Redeker commented that we do not have a choice and to budget for it. Ald. Toellner commented to do what we did last year.

Ald. Sertich commented that the \$2,000 set aside will be determined on the finding from the arbitrator. It is also to address any concerns that Officer Vossekuil has.

The overtime budget is at \$25,000. The Chief of Police commented that they are a 24/7, 365 department tasked with the safety of the City. He noted to approve the new officer. Chris noted that the new radio needs to be taken out. The radio is not in the budget.

Ald. Schmidt commented we need a new officer. Ald. Pasbrig commented he would like to see a new officer but does not see it happening now. Ald. Boelk commented concerns of how to manage the staff. Ald. Toellner commented he is leaning toward a new officer. Ald. Redeker commented that the problem we have is that we do not have the new contract negotiated. If we had Part-time officers, there would be no need for a new officer. This has a great impact on this budget and future budgets. Chief MacNeill commented that we need a good foundation. Chief MacNeill commented that they are working long hours. Ald. Redeker commented that the part-time officers will give the City flexibility. Chief MacNeill commented that he covers shifts. Ald. Schmidt commented that if we do not give this officer, in essence we are eliminating one position from the police department that is already short. Ald. Sertich commented that we are short \$23,411 for the expenditure restraint and \$97,573 for the \$365,000. Kathie Wild commented that we will need to look at levying more to the general fund which means raising taxes.

Motion by Ald. Pasbrig, second by Ald. Redeker to remove the new officer of \$71,711. Motion tied at Ald. Pasbrig, Ald. Redeker, Ald. Sertich voted yes. Ald. Toellner, Ald. Schmidt, and Ald. Boelk voted no. Mayor broke the tie by voting No. Motion failed 4-3.

Motion by Ald. Boelk, second by Ald. Toellner to take a recess. Motion carried 6-0.

Ald. Redeker commented to revisit the overtime. Chief MacNeill commented that officers pick their vacation at the beginning of the year. The overtime budget was \$30,000 and then it was reduced to \$25,000 when the two officers were laid off. He commented that if reduced it will have to be very little. Ald. Redeker noted that the officer would fill in for training and vacation and family medical leave. Discussion of the fourth shift ensued. Chief MacNeill commented that they have five shifts. This would address the need and a resource that he did not have this year. Ald. Sertich reminded the Council of the loss of \$80,000. This is huge for a municipality right now. She noted to look at the whole picture. Ald. Toellner commented he would like to see the overtime at \$20,000 and the Chief can pick that up. If someone needs to go to court he can pick that up. Chief MacNeill commented that he has been doing that. Motion by Ald. Toellner, second by Ald. Redeker to reduce the police department overtime budget to \$20,000. Motion failed 4-2, Ald. Boelk, Ald. Schmidt, Ald. Sertich, and Ald. Pasbrig voted no. Ald. Redeker and Ald. Toellner voted yes.

Motion by Ald. Sertich, second by Ald. Schmidt to go with four years and determine the year of the revaluation with Associated Appraisal based solely on the best price. Ald. Boelk questioned when we will do the full revaluation. Ald. Sertich noted the sooner the better. It will be brought back. Motion carried 6-0.

The Postage item under the assessor will need to change. We will take out \$1,530 for the postage. They will include that. Of the \$26,500 per year, the maintenance portion of \$11,500 is allocated. Savings of \$3,830. Motion by Ald. Sertich, second by Ald. Pasbrig to approve the above changes to the assessor budget. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to recess by Ald. Boelk, second by Ald. Toellner. Motion carried.

Motion by Ald. Schmidt, second by Ald. Boelk to hold off on hiring the officer until July 1, 2014. Motion carried 5-1, Ald. Redeker voted no.

Motion by Ald. Sertich, second by Ald. Redeker to increase the levy to make the \$365,000. Motion carried 6-0.

Item #5 – Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Sertich, second by Ald. Toellner to adjourn at 10:36 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Deanna Boldrey, City Clerk