

FINANCE COMMITTEE – BUDGET SESSION #1

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m., Council Chambers

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Michael Martens, Carol Lukens, Sarah Watson, and Doug Diny

Others Present: Mayor Rosenberg, MaryAnne Groat, Emily Ley, Anne Jacobson, Matt Barnes, Jermany Kopp, Bob Barteck, James Henderson, Eric Lindman, Dustin Kraege, Rick Rubow, Mark Sauer, Liz Brodek, Randy Fifrick, Kody Hart, Alder Gary Gisselman, Alder Chad Henke

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting(s): (9/26/2023).

Motion by Watson, seconded by Diny, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action authorizing a 3% general wage adjustment for non-represented employees effective December 24, 2023

Martens questioned as to how this increase in wages impacts the mill rate and levy limits. It was stated that there is no threshold for expenditure restraint in the next year and that this increase will impact the mill rate accordingly.

Watson questioned if there would be an adjustment to the current year's budget as the start date is slated to December 24. It was stated that there would have to be a small change in the current year's budget in order for the increase in wages to align with pay periods and to be in accordance with the newly agreed upon union contracts.

Rasmussen stated that this was a way to stay mindful of the current workforce market in terms of attracting and retaining talent.

Diny questioned if this would be a cost to continue or a supplemental request to be added to the budget and if a budget modification would need to be approved for a start date within this year. It was stated that this would be built into the 2024 budget. It was stated there would be no need for a budget modification because the financial impact would be absorbed into the individual department budgets.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Diny, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding Authorizing health, dental, vision and supplemental insurance plan design for 2024

Motion by Martens, seconded by Lukens, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding Authorizing CCIT Inclusion on the City's health, dental, vision and supplemental insurance plan design for 2024 and 2025

Motion by Diny, seconded by Lukens, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving a budget modification for the Wausau West Generator Project

Watson questioned as to how much was left over in the ARPA account. It was stated that there is \$1.6 million in the ARPA account. Watson questioned if this was accounting for construction costs that came in overbudget. It was stated that additional construction costs and electrical engineering costs accounted for this need.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Martens, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving budget modification for 2023 Facility Improvement Capital Projects

Watson questioned on the language that reads that the contingency fund could be utilized if needed. It was stated that this would allow the Department of Public Works to use contingency funding if a small and unforeseen cost comes up after the projects are put out for bid without the need to approve that with the committee.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Diny, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action accepting dedication of a portion of 7119 Stewart Avenue for public right-of-way

Motion by Diny, seconded by Martens, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding the 2023 Audit proposal from Clifton Larson Allen

Without objection, this agenda item and agenda item 10 were moved up to be discussed before going into closed session to ensure the committee has time to take action at this meeting given the time constraints.

Motion by Diny, seconded by Martens, to approve to extend another year based on the proposal in the packet, and direct that the Community Development Authority be allowed to piggyback on the audit if their board should approve the participation. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action to authorize an Offer to Purchase 811 and 815 Grand Avenue (and related budget modification)

No discussion in open session.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to s. 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: relating to authorization of staff to negotiate an Offer to Purchase of 811 and 815 Grand Avenue (and related budget modification)

Motion by Martens, second by Watson, to convene in Closed Session.

Roll Call Vote - Yes: Watson, Diny, Martens, Lukens, and Rasmussen, No: None. Motion carried 5-0.

RECONVENED into Open Session to take action on Closed Session items.

Motion by Diny, seconded by Martens, to accept the counteroffer on the purchase of the properties at 811 and 815 Grand Avenue at a purchase price of \$805,000. Motion carried 5-0.

Introduce 2024 Supplemental budget requests

Supplemental budget requests were presented by staff for committee members to rank and score. The request reviewed included Neighborhood Listening Sessions from the Community Development Department, Firefighter Cancer Screening and Paramedic Tuition from the Fire Department, Restorative Justice Support by the Municipal Court, Commercial Travel and Recruitment & Retention from the Police Department. The requests pulled for discussion entirely included Station 3 Lockers and Medical Equipment by the Fire Department because the equipment replacement fund will account for these needs. The requests to be discussed at a future meeting included requests by the Department of Public Works and for new personnel from various departments.

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkwwkIC9XnmY> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC3eTRUDHww>