

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 24, 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, Bob Barteck, Jeremy Kopp, James Henderson, Eric Lindman, Dustin Kraege, Liz Brodek, Jamie Polley, Solomon King, Kody Hart, Alder Gisselman, Alder Herbst

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

Minutes of the previous meeting(s): (10/10/2023)

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

Discussion and possible action regarding 2022 audit presentation by Clifton Larson

The audit was presented by Stuart Randall of Clifton Larson. Questions were asked and answered following discussion. Audit placed on file.

Link to 2022 Audit: <https://www.wausauwi.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/9375/638273481548700000>

Discussion and possible action regarding 2023 Business Improvement District Plan

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

Discussion and possible action on approving accepted offer for the following parcel in the Stewart Avenue, South 72nd Avenue South 48th Avenue street project: Parcel 49 (4805 Stewart Avenue & 4905 Stewart Avenue) – New Highway Right-of-Way

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

Discussion and possible action approving budget modification for the City Hall Security project

Diny questioned if it would be more appropriate to have full time security staff at City Hall. It was stated that full time staff would have a significant impact on the cost to continue. Diny stated support for locking more entries and more security surveillance on the building in addition to security staff to manage safety concerns.

Watson stated that the current proposal satisfies the balance of protecting City Hall employees and keeping the building open and accessible to the public.

Lukens stated support for protecting City Hall staff in a way that has minimal impact on the ongoing budget and that this is the best option moving forward. It was also stated that this should be a priority in allocating funds.

Martens stated that this proposal also includes modifications to public facing portions of the Municipal Court and Court Clerk's offices, and that this is a workable solution.

Rasmussen stated concerns with being counterproductive if the plans change course at this time when the plans are already approved.

Diny stated support for moving this item into next year and stated that the proposed security upgrades are excessive.

Rasmussen stated there have been legitimate threats made on elected officials and city staff that makes those individuals feel unsafe. It was stated that the safety of people who interact with the city is a priority.

Martens stated that this has been an ongoing discussion for several years all while the cost of construction for the upgrades have gotten more expensive and the legitimate threats have increased in that time. It was stated that the situation has not improved, and that passage of the security upgrades are needed.

Diny stated the Committee should explore off-setting the cost of the budget modification in the supplemental budget. It was stated that there was more to the security of City Hall then just putting up a fence.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to approve. Motion carried 4-1, (*Diny was the dissenting vote*)

Discussion and possible action on moving Transit Supervisor from grade 18 to grade 17

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

Discussion and possible action regarding amending salaries for elected officials

Rasmussen stated that the current salaries are in line with neighboring communities who also have not increased these salaries in a long period of time.

Martens stated indifference as the salaries are still on trend with the local average. It was stated that Martens along with the rest of the Alders on the Human Resources Committee voted unanimously to reject the increase.

Rasmussen stated opposition due to the current state of the economy.

Diny stated opposition due to the optics of receiving pay increases while the economy is struggling and in the context of approving the security upgrades for City Hall.

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

Discussion and possible action regarding sole source purchase of 2 dump boides, v-boxes, hook-lifts, wings, and hydraulic systems for DPW tri-axle trucks. (Truck Equipment, Inc.)

Without objection, this agenda item and the next agenda items 10 and 11 were moved up to be discussed before agenda item 8 to ensure the committee has time to take action at this meeting given the time constraints.

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

Discussion and possible action regarding purchasing equipment early (Motor Pool / Fleet)

Rasmussen directed staff to come back to the Finance Committee if there is a significant purchasing variance from what is estimated.

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

Discussion and possible action regarding equipment down payments (Motor Pool / Fleet)

Rasmussen questioned if the city has the ability to advance the funding for the down payments and replenish the cost with the motor pool fund. It was stated that the funding mechanism in question is possible, and that staff will explore what other cities do in this situation. It was also stated that there should be a policy in place to recoup prepaid cost if circumstances changes or products are not delivered.

Diny questioned if there was a way to negotiate a planning certainty with the vendor.

Motion by Martens, seconded by Diny, to approve with the directive to staff to take whatever measures are necessary to secure those advance payments and negotiate the terms of the contracts such that they are not losing those deposits. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding the 2024 Budget including supplemental requests and deferred capital projects

Deferred Capital Improvement Projects were discussed for the committee members to review. In particular, the Public Safety Building Roof Replacement, the Pickleball Court Replacement Program, and the Council Chambers Video & Room Control Upgrade were reviewed. The Athletic Park Historic Wall Cap Repairs project is removed from the list as the Park Department was able to pay for it through their small project fund.

Staff are directed to provide the committee the CIP Request Summary form for further review of the dollar amounts and how the projects scored, and survey for quorum a committee meeting on Monday, October 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Watson, second by Lukens, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.