

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers

Members Present: Michael Martens (C), Gary Gisselman (VC), Becky McElhaney, Terry Kilian, Vicki Tierney

Others Present: Mayor Diny, MaryAnne Groat, Matt Barnes, Todd Baeten, Jeremy Kopp, Anne Jacobson, Eric Lindman, Kody Hart, Alder Lukens

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Martens called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting(s) (04/23/2024).

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Kilian, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on a budget modification to purchase of 10 Portable Motorola Radios for the Wausau Police Department.

Tierney questioned if 100 radios are used by the department. It was stated that each officer receives their own radio that they use perpetually, and this includes community service officers and emergency police.

Gisselman questioned if this would be included in the regular budget for the department. It was stated that this would be included in the budget moving forward with preplanning.

McElhaney questioned the indefinite increase in the department budget and if the increase could be absorbed in another way within the budget. It was stated that the budget will go up to be increased to \$50,000 to account for the purchase of 10 new radios each year and that it could not be absorbed into the existing budget.

Tierney questioned where previous carryover under-budgeting, which could be used to fund this equipment, is accounted from. It was stated that the under-budgeting comes from funding allocated to positions that were vacant throughout the year.

Kilian requested to have the department notify the committee of the carryover funds to fund future allocations for this equipment. It was stated carryover funds are not guaranteed and that carryover funds can not be allocated without Common Council approval.

Motion by Kilian, seconded by McElhaney, to modify the budget to allow \$50,000 for the purchase of 10 Motorola radios. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action to waive the fees for Firework Display permit and Temporary "Class B" Picnic License for Man of Honor Annual Raffle Event.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Gisselman, to waive the fees. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving sole source purchasing for the purchase of (8) Eight PVS-14 L3 Harris night vision units and mounts for the Wausau Fire Department.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Tierney, to approve the sole source purchase. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action approving budget modification for the Abel LS construction project.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by McElhaney, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funding requests and related budget modification for Wausau Water Works Solar Array.

Martens stated the results of the rankings of this project for ARPA funding and noted that the scores were low compared to other projects previously funded.

Gisselman questioned the process for ARPA funding in terms of contract signing in time to allocate and secure the other funding to complete the project. It was stated that a number of the additional funding would not be known until after the ARPA spending deadline.

Kilian questioned if the federal funding for energy projects to reduce carbon emissions would be available for this project. It was stated these funding options would be available for this project.

McElhaney questioned what would happen if the ARPA funds were allocated and other funding does not come through. It was stated the ARPA funds would have to be allocated alternatively if the other funding falls through.

Tierney stated it would be difficult to approve if it could not be proven that there would be a payback in reducing the water utility's electricity needs.

Martens stated the projections estimated a 12-year payback with a 30-year lifespan of the solar array. It was stated there would be a potential for a levy funded portion to fund this project at more than \$1 million with the hopes of using energy rebates and federal funding to make that up. Martens further stated the city committed to being carbon neutral by 2050 which this would contribute towards.

Gisselman stated there would be payback every year to contribute to pay for debt relief of the water utility and stated support for the project moving ahead. A concern was stated for waiting for other funding sources that may not be secured before the deadline to sign contracts in order to qualify for ARPA funding.

Tierney questioned if the cost would increase if the city waited to bid the project out. It was also stated a preference to wait a few months to see where the other ARPA projects would finish.

Motion by Gisselman to approve the ARPA funding request and related budget modifications for the solar array project. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

McElhaney stated a concern with approving ARPA funding without a secure estimate of other funding sources and stated a preference for a complete project funding picture.

Without objection, staff are directed to come up with a more complete funding source outlook for this project to discuss at a future meeting.

Adjourn

Motion by McElhaney, second by Tierney, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvCI9MtINx0>