

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers

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

Others Present: Mayor Diny, MaryAnne Groat, Matt Barnes, Jeremy Kopp, Anne Jacobson, Eric Lindman, James Henderson, Dustin Kraege, Randy Fifrick, Andrew Lynch, Tammy Statz, Kody Hart, Alder Henke

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

Minutes of the previous meeting(s) (06/11/2024).

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

Discussion and possible action on the sole source purchase for leaf vac truck repairs for the Department of Public Works.

Martens questioned if this purchase was for the older of the two leaf vac trucks and if the newer truck would need repairs as well. It was stated the newer vehicle was in good condition and the sole source request was because no parts were available which left few options. Martens stated that these repairs were less expensive than a total replacement.

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

Discussion and possible action on approving Interlocal Agreement between the City of Wausau and Marathon County for the 2022 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Award.

Kilian questioned the cost of the forensic software for which this grant would cover. It was stated the software is close to \$100,000 a year.

Tierney questioned how many computers and cell phones are being used with the software. It was stated that nearly all crimes now have some digital evidence with an estimate of hundreds of devices a year used by the software.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Kilian, to approve acceptance of the grant. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on approving Interlocal Agreement between the City of Wausau and Marathon County for the 2023 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program Award.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Kilian, to approve acceptance of the grant. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action authorizing the City of Wausau to enter a 3-year (2024-2027) shared services agreement with the Wausau School District for School Resource Officers.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Kilian, to approve the agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and Possible Action approving United Way impact grant funding for assisting the unhoused with security deposits.

Martens questioned if when the security deposits is given back to the applicant, is it provided back to the individual renting or comes back to the city as a revolving fund. It was stated that the goal is for a revolving fund to support future individuals.

Tierney questioned if individuals finding housing with the Community Outreach Coordinator would continue contact with the coordinator. It was stated that the coordinator will continue with individuals that find housing as is the current practice.

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

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

Kilian stated support for a sustainable energy resolution that was previously passed but stated reservations on a potential shortfall and recommended delaying action until the city and residents are in a strong fiscal position.

Tierney stated the ARPA scoring by committee members was not a particularly high score and shared concerns on the additional funding needed by levy. Tierney stated support for the idea of a solar array at the water facility and stated this project could be completed a couple of years down the road.

Gisselman complimented the work of the Solar Array Task Force for it's work and consideration. It was stated that the city should move the mark and that this is a time to signal support for alternative energy for which the community supports. Gisselman stated that there is never going to be a time when the city is in a perfect fiscal condition and that the time is now to start this project.

Martens stated if this project does not move ahead now, it may not happen as the ARPA funding is limited to being committed before the end of the year and the cost of the project may only increase.

McElhaney questioned the estimated savings listed within the material. It was stated that the return on investment must be greater than the total cost of the project to be viable. McElhaney stated support for moving the item to the Common Council for further consideration.

Tierney questioned if lower water rates would be realized if the city commits to additional funding via levy and shared concerns of operating cost in addition. It was stated the project would not be realized in immediate savings but apply to long-term costs.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Martens, to approve the ARPA funding and related budget modification of the Wausau Water Works Solar Array. Motion carried 3-2, with Kilian and Tierney in opposition.

Discussion and possible action on First Amendment to Agreement for Lease of Parking Lot-Third and McClellan Streets (Curly Kale LLC).

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

Discussion and possible action on parking agreement with Compass Block 15 LLC (Jefferson Street Ramp and Lots 7, 14 and 20).

Martens questioned if the committee would like to direct staff to continue to work with the entity on a new agreement or wait until the next committee meeting.

Tierney questioned the reservation of 300 parking spaces available when only 40 or so spots are being billed and used. It was stated that the reservation of so many parking spaces was used by the entity for leverage with tenants. Tierney stated concerns with an increase in parking needs in the future with development in the downtown area and recommended cutting the number of reserved spaces within the contract.

Without objection, staff are directed to work with the entity on a renewal contract to button up details as discussed at the committee meeting.

Discussion and possible action on ARPA Beneficiary Agreement and Attestation for the CDA Affordable Housing Infill Program.

Tierney questioned if the transfer would allow the ARPA funds to be committed. It was stated an interagency agreement to allocate the funds would allow the funding to move forward. Tierney stated a preference for allocation of funds to ensure they would not be lost.

Kilian questioned if the city would have any say directly over the funds. It was stated the Community Development Authority and the Community Development Department share the same director in addition to the city having two alders on the authority board. Kilian further questioned if there was a guarantee of a particular location for affordable housing being allocated the funds. It was stated that no particular location would be outlined to stay broad to fulfill the ARPA funding rules. Kilian stated there was an issue with the process being followed as the allocation would go towards a program that does not exist and that it is going against council directives for affordable housing in particular locations.

Without objection, public comment was provided.

- 1) Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street – spoke in opposition of the proposed transfer of funds.

Tierney questioned if this transfer is legal under the rules for allocation of ARPA. It was stated that interagency agreements were considered obligation of funds under the rules put forth by the federal government.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by McElhaney, to approve the transfer of the ARPA funds into the Community Development Authority for affordable housing. Motion carried 4-1, with Kilian in opposition.

2023 Financial Results Presentation.

Without objection, this item will be taken up at the next committee meeting.

Discussion and possible action on additional fire chief vehicle.

Tierney questioned how often the situation occurs when a fire chief does not have an available vehicle. It was stated this happens quite often and in the past the division chief was using their own vehicle which was not advisable.

Tierney questioned the allocation of passenger vehicles. It was stated the additional vehicle would be used by the other division chief as those two positions only have one vehicle allocated.

Martens questioned if this would impact the budget process and if this would start now and be included in the next budget for the department. It was stated this would be allocated at this time and added to the budget in the future.

Tierney questioned the purchase price of the vehicle. It was stated the fleet manager would need to answer the questions on the cost of the vehicle purchase.

Without objection, this item will be taken up at the next committee meeting and staff are directed to bring more information forward at that meeting.

Adjourn

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Tierney, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDg5SXGAJug>