

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers

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

Others Present: MaryAnne Groat, Jeremy Kopp, Bill Hebert

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Martens called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting (09/24/2024).

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

Discussion and possible action regarding 2025 Business Improvement District Operating Plan.

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

Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of a Private Well Abandonment Assessment Program.

McElhaney questioned how many wells are in the city. It was stated that number was unknown, but the Department of Public Works would have the number.

Tierney questioned how the particular amount was estimated. It was stated the cost for closing was estimated.

Martens stated this would allow residents closing wells to breakup the closure payments into multiple years instead of paying all at once at the time of the closure.

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

Discussion and possible action approving sole source purchase request for 2024 audit services for the Finance Department.

Tierney questioned if different costs could be looked at in the next year. It was stated a request for proposal could be made next year. Tierney stated uncomfortableness with not looking at other vendors in the next year.

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

Discussion and possible action on Contract for Inspection Services with the City of Schofield.

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

Discussion and possible action on modifying the ARPA budget for Firefighter positions.

Tierney questioned the reoccurring cost. It was stated the cost was budgeted for three positions annually and \$364,000 that will be levy funded in the future. It was additionally stated that the Fire Department is working with FEMA to secure an extension on grant funding. Tierney questioned the challenges with hiring. It was stated this is a nationwide shortage in applicants.

Henke stated the city recently closed a TID and questioned if a TID could provide a funding source.

Gisselman questioned the current staffing levels and the prospect of future staffing. The current staffing level was stated. It was also stated there is an apprenticeship program currently seeking federal funding to improve the future staffing outlook. It was stated the staffing is currently eight short with future retirements and light-duty impacting the exact number. Gisselman questioned how the staffing level impacts the budget. It was stated the budget is set for minimum staffing with a smaller crew per-engine limiting the need for overtime.

Tierney questioned if applicants get their training paid for would be required to stay with the department. It was stated this would be a component for an apprenticeship program. Tierney stated this would be an incentive for applicants and wanted to ensure the department wasn't being used for free training.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, to approve the request. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funding request and related budget modification moving \$800,000 Sewer Headworks Screening funding to Cherry Street Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation.

Tierney stated the funding should be placed towards the Solar Array Project if the contract can be signed by the ARPA deadline.

Henke stated this would be good to fund the Solar Array Project if the city was aggressive with securing bids and a contract by the end of the year. Henke stated the risk of leaving ARPA money on the table thus stating support for this particular project.

Martens stated this particular project had started the bid process and could be secured by the end of the year ensuring it would be applicable for ARPA spending.

Gisselman stated it was too late for the funding to be secured toward the Solar Array Project and stated support for this particular project.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by McElhaney, to approve. Motion carried 4-1, with Tierney opposed.

Discussion and possible action regarding ARPA funding request and related budget modification moving lead service line replacement to Water SCADA Equipment.

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

Discussion and possible action approving sole source purchase request for final design, bidding and construction inspection services for the Cherry St Lift Station for the Department of Public Works.

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

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved regarding Marathon County Case No. 19CV162 Kenneth J. Stankowski, et al vs. City of Wausau regarding a settlement offer.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to convene in Closed Session.

Roll Call Vote – Yes: Henke, Tierney, McElhaney, Gisselman, Martens, No: None. Motion carried 5-0.

CONVENED into Closed Session.

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

Motion by McElhaney, seconded by Tierney, to approve the settlement agreement in Marathon County Case No. 19CV162 Kenneth J. Stankowski, et al vs. City of Wausau and related budget modification. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

For full meeting video on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGTPD_i2Gjo and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6Bz1sgFPcc>