

City Council Finance Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

7:00PM

Hurley Building

Present: Finance Committee members: Taylor, Terwilliger, White
Council members: Boni, Bucci, Cutri, Mayor Polimeni
City Staff: City Manager Forrest, Assistant City Manager Goodwin,
Clerk/Treasurer Abdallah, City Attorney Smith, Public Works Director
Sprague

1. Report from Chamber of Commerce

Allison Grems, Chamber Director, Thomas Lyon, Economic Development Specialist, and board members Bill Fuge and Floyd Rayburn presented an economic development status report to the Finance Committee. The report included three topics:

- 1) Economic Development Project List – 55 separate opportunities were reported. The list included active, on-hold, canceled, and completed projects.
- 2) Economic Development Fall Report – covering the initiative' categories of Communications; Business Retention and Expansion; Development, Redevelopment, and Real Estate; and Business Assistance.
- 3) Itemization of the Economic Development Project expenses, which year-to-date total \$77,644.58 – on track to meet the City's contribution to the project by year end.

Committee accepted the report with appreciation for the work being done and established the expectation that the Chamber reestablish the schedule of providing these reports on a quarterly basis.

Action Taken: None, this was an information-only topic.

2. Budget Amendment Requests for Fire Department

City Manager Forrest, Assistant City Manager Goodwin, and Clerk/Treasurer Abdallah presented two budget amendment proposals for the City Fire Department:

- 1) Need for additional \$15K in funding from contingency line item to cover \$10.5K in additional anticipated OT costs for the remainder of the year and \$9.917K in unanticipated vehicle maintenance costs. The difference is proposed to be supplemented by under-spending in other portions of the FD budget.
- 2) Request for an additional \$18.8K for the department's Volunteer and Recruitment program to be funded entirely by a corresponding increase in the Federal grant supporting this program.

Action Taken: Item #1 did not receive sufficient Committee support but will be brought to the October 2 Council meeting by the Committee chair. Item #2 was approved by Committee 3-0 and will be presented at the October 2 Council meeting in the form of a resolution.

3. Engineering Study Proposals for Hurley Building and City Hall

Public Works Director Sprague reviewed proposals for architectural and engineering design work needed in anticipation of planned capital projects to update the infrastructure/mechanical systems of the two City buildings. Additionally, a redesign/reconfiguration of the Hurley Building is anticipated. Proposed was \$29.3K and \$13.7K for architectural work on the Hurley Building and City Hall projects, respectively. Also proposed was \$88.8K for engineering design work for the City Hall project. Funding for both would be supplied from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Action Taken: Proposals for architectural and design work were approved 3-0 by Committee and will be presented at the October 2 Council meeting in the form of a resolution.

4. Bell Atlantic Mobile of Rochester (Verizon Wireless) Lease Agreement

Verizon Wireless, currently leasing space at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant for telecommunications equipment, has made a new lease request for space at the North Main Street Water Tower. City Attorney Smith presented proposed terms for a water tower lease: 25-year period consisting of five 5-year renewable terms, \$24K/year as initial base lease rate with annual increases of 3%. Lease revenues would be directed to the City's Technology Fund.

Action Taken: Proposal was approved 3-0 by Committee and will be presented at the October 2 Council meeting in the form of a resolution.

5. Small Cell Tower Technology

City Manager Forrest and City Attorney Smith reviewed status of an initiative that would have the City lease space for multiple small cell units that would provide a backbone for new-technology wireless communications within the City. Two options were described: 1) work through an agent, such as CMA (championed by Tarkus Murphy), that would manage the negotiation of terms and ongoing operations, or 2) manage the process directly with providers such as Verizon and Sprint. It was reported that the City is already mapping out potential locations.

Action Taken: None taken, informational topic only. Staff was asked to contact other NYS cities that have already moved ahead on similar initiatives (including Johnson City, Vestal, and Union) to benchmark and learn from their experiences.

Meeting was temporarily adjourned at 8:50PM.

Executive Session – Real Property Matters

Meeting was called back to order at 8:55PM followed immediately by final adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

James Terwilliger
Finance Committee Chair