

## **JULY 23, 2018, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

4 p.m. Council chamber. Members present: M. Hraban, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorsegner, A. Kenyon, D. Parker, T. Verdegan.

### **Call to Order:**

Committee Chair Platteter called the meeting to order.

### **2019 Budget Challenges:**

#### Public Works

Adm. Christianson noted that the nearly \$2,000,000 street project envisioned to rebuild portions of heavily traveled Fritz and Worden Avenues probably represents the largest financial challenge in the next couple years, adding the following:

- Even if the \$500,000 maximum CDBG grant is awarded, another \$1,500,000 is likely to need to be borrowed. This borrowing can probably be [through WDNR's CWF and SDWLP programs, owing to main replacements needed,] with repayment from TIFD #8.
- Any general obligation component of this borrowing can be offset by payoff of other debt (general and Rockwell related), which will occur in the next two years. Use of TIF for repayment is justifiable as several vacant or underutilized commercial sites will be served along these streets.

DPW Gorsegner noted that a grader will be a need at some point.

Mr. Hraban noted that reopening of the newly remodeled Elementary School may somewhat alter traffic patterns in that vicinity, increasing the need to resurface E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. north of Worden. E. 6<sup>th</sup> north of Worden will benefit from patching the adjacent parent drop off area.

#### LPD

Chief Julien stated that LPD expects to need a new squad car in 2019, some of the cost of which has already been set aside.

#### Rail Display

Mr. Hraban noted an ongoing request for a roof over the caboose and boxcar in the rail display.

#### Holiday Displays

Mrs. Stoneberg noted a need to slowly replace holiday displays.

#### Outdoor Recreation

Asst. DPW Parker noted that, if the City is to pursue upgrades to Riverview Trail and an Urban Forestry grant, match funds will need to be identified. Atty. Kenyon observed that both projects address the apparent need to attract and retain workers. He suggested an effort to connect all of the following:

- Highway 27 walk to Falge Park wetland walkway.
- Highway 27 walk to sidewalk on Hwy. 27 bridge.
- Highway 27 bridge to Riverview Trail.
- Heritage Federal to Kwik Trip sidewalk.
- Greenwood Manor to Gordy's sidewalk; maybe by way of W. 8<sup>th</sup> and Pederson, with Highway 27 crossing at Pederson. New walks would, presumably, be needed on both W. 8<sup>th</sup> and Pederson, but striped lanes might be used in some locations.

Signs are already on order to link Riverview Trail to Flambeau Mine Trails.

In trying to put the 2019 budget situation in a realistic overall context, Mr. Hraban noted that 3,200 people are being asked to support services that were designed for 4,000.

**Homeless Shelter:**

Mr. Platteter reported that he has been asked by the homeless shelter manager to get on an agenda to seek financial support from the City. Adm. Christianson replied that although the City's auditor is not aware of any rule prohibiting such assistance, neither is she aware of any municipalities below the county government level that provide it. In our case the Rusk County Social Services annual budget of \$4,200,000 is nearly as high as the City's total budget of \$4,970,900 (2017). The auditor went on to say that it is increasing common for multi county agencies rather than for individual counties to provide support for such services.

**Next Meeting:**

Department heads were asked to put together 2019 budget requests by Monday August 13<sup>th</sup>, so a meeting can be held that week to begin review of them.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at about 5:05 p.m.