

AUGUST 22, 2018, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2:30 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: M. Hraban, M. Platteter, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gibbs, K. Gorsegner, H. Helmecci, A. Kenyon, T. Verdegan.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Platteter called the meeting to order and presided.

2019 Budget Reviews:

Several departmental budgets were reviewed, as follows:

Hollis Helmecci

Library Director Hollis Helmecci reviewed the proposed 2019 budget for that facility indicating it is largely the same as this year. It was noted that the City's comparative use of the facility has been slowly trending upward. A 5-year average is used to split costs with Rusk County.

Al Christianson

Administrator Christianson reviewed the proposed economic development budget describing it as the same as 2018, except for adding \$5,000 for increased mowing of the industrial area for appearances sake. He went on to say that if crews don't have the time this task should be contracted. He then listed off nearly \$700,000 of expenditures he described as the types of reinvestment Eau Claire is making, which we need to consider if we are to reverse troubling population decline. He did clarify, however, that all but a couple of these might be addressed using TIF revenues. One of these exceptions is proposed expenditure of \$3,000 for placing informative articles in the Ladysmith News, for those who don't use a computer, and on the website for those who do.

Kurt Gorsegner

DPW Gorsegner reviewed proposed 2019 public works budgets for streets, weed and tree management, parking lots and storm sewers and the proposed budget for building inspection. He distributed an informational flyer describing an asphalt hot box trailer, which would enable crews to install hot patches year around rather than cold patches much of the time. Communities that have these really like them. Hot patches are considered permanent and stay in place much better than cold patches, which are often beaten out by traffic daily during spring pothole season. The unit can be programmed to heat itself before workers come in so it is ready to go first thing. A demo will be sought. He also suggested the City begin setting money aside for eventual replacement of the City's grader with a better used one. The difference might be \$150,000. Although it was suggested the city get another snow box insert PWD needs to keep two of 5 trucks empty to respond to other needs like fill for graves and gravel to fill holes resulting from main breaks.

Terry Verdegan

Mrs. Verdegan reviewed proposed 2019 budgets for general government, legal costs, debt service, and a contingency fund. Animal shelter debt payoff is \$10,800. The contribution to the bus service is \$13,178, the origins of which number remain uncertain. It is believed that these local "matching" monies are critical to the bus service getting Federal and State grants.

Kyle Gibbs

The Fire Chief presented a budget proposal largely the same as this year's.

Other

It was mentioned that per diem amount has remain unchanged since 1982.