

August 5th, 2024 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:00 pm Council Chamber. Members Present: N. Johnson, R. Lovely, M. Hraban

Others Present: A. Christianson II, A. Christianson III, Robert Grotzinger, C. Sewaringen, T. Devine, S. Christianson

Call to Order: Committee Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and presided.

Roll Call: Mr. Devine took roll. A quorum was present.

Discussion on Upper Library budget:

Ms. Swearingen explained that the Upper Library budget for 2025 is largely unchanged from 2024 with three exceptions. 1) There is an expectation of more maintenance to be done in 2025. So the maintenance line has been increased from \$3,500 to \$10,000. 2) The MORE expenditures budget line was increased from \$24,225 to \$25,519. 3) The E-Media Expense line was increased from \$2,700 to \$4,124 to cover a 3 year subscription.

Administrator Christianson advised that heating system repairs were necessary at the library, and that the estimated city's share was \$35,000. Mr. Christianson suggested that we look at tapping into undesignated fund balance to get the project going before fall/winter cause a strain on the existing system, of which only one of four furnaces are working.

Discussion on Lower Library budget:

Ms. Swearingen that the Lower Library budget is unchanged from 2024.

There were no adjustment requests.

Discussion on Transit Budget:

The Transit budget consists of one line item for \$13,178. This has been consistent for several years.

There were no adjustments requested.

Discussion on Parking Lots & Street Lights budget:

Mr. Devine explained that there may be some wages landing in this department, but they are minimal. The street light expense line was given a \$3,500 increase to bring int in line with the historical upward trend.

There were no adjustments requested.

Discussion on Animal Shelter budget:

Mr. Devine explained that he reached out to the County's finance director and got their proposed 2025 Animal Shelter budget. In it the City of Ladysmith's contribution was budgeted at \$87,812, an increase of \$30,106.

Stephanie Christianson spoke about open record requests she has executed, then gave an overview of the management structure and procedures used at the animal shelter.

It was agreed that the City would return the offer to give up to \$60,000 for Animal Shelter support.

Next meeting tentatively planned for Wednesday, August 14th, at 5:00pm.

Motion to adjourn by R. Lovely, seconded by M. Hraban

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00pm