

SEPTEMBER 19, 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, H. Helmecci, T. Verdegan.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Platteter called the meeting to order and presided.

2019 Budget:

While the meeting focused on the proposed 2019 budget a number of specific items were discussed:

Borrowing

Mr. Platteter asked other members if they are comfortable borrowing \$346,000 to balance next year's budget, to which they replied that they are. Mr. Platteter also asked what will happen if borrowing is needed to balance the 2020 budget. Although there may not have been a direct answer, it was noted that some current debt will be paid off in upcoming years that could offset any new borrowing.

Tax Increase

It was noted, in response to a question, that the current budget proposal does not contemplate a tax increase; only \$400 attributable to "new construction".

Library

Ms. Helmecci asked about the status of \$25,000 earmarked a few years ago for library repairs. It was noted those monies are in the fund balance. It was also stated that if the stucco has to be removed and replaced it may cost in the hundreds of thousands.

Parks and Rec

Adm. Christianson asked that \$6,500 be added to the parks budget and also on the revenue side of the budget. He stated that, on the expenditure side, this will be to pay for a seasonal parks and rec director or similar position. And that, on the revenue side, he expects this will be a contribution from the Ladysmith Community Industrial Development Corp. (IDC). Members concurred with this request provided that the contribution materializes.

Tennis Courts

DPW Gorsegner was told by a vendor that the base under the Memorial Park tennis courts is in adequate and that, with replacement of the base, a complete redo could cost up to \$80,000.

Trash Collection

Even though City trash collection has most often been budget neutral the City is in need of a new recycling trailer. Comptroller Verdegan also noted that all administrative time spent on billing is not recovered. That being the case support was expressed for increasing revenues. Chair Platteter advocated increasing sticker fees, while others present who commented favor adding \$2 to the quarterly utility bill charge in 2019 and \$0.50 annually thereafter. It was noted that, like power and other utilities, much of the cost of providing the service is just making it available regardless of the volume that is reflected in just the tipping fee charged by the landfill. For this reason, utilities typically charge a basic service fee, plus a fee for volume of usage. The current fee has been the same since first adopted in 1987.

Next Meeting:

Another meeting will be planned for Wednesday, September 26, at 4 p.m.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.