

## **SEPTEMBER 21, 2017, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

2 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: M. Hraban, R. Moore, M. Platteter. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, K. Julien, A. Lobermeier, D. Parker, T. Verdegan, G. Waggoner.

### **Call to Order:**

Committee Chair Moore called the meeting to order and presided.

### **Minutes:**

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Platteter and carried by voice vote to approve the Sept. 6 meeting minutes, although it was noted that mention could have been made of a potential referendum about one year from now to increase the City's levy to cover debt.

### **2018 Budget Review:**

Comptroller Verdegan reviewed the most recent 2018 Budget plan, which is attached, focusing on the right-hand column, which consists of notes explaining changes from the initial draft to the current draft. The current draft contains a deficit of \$128,000 between anticipated revenues and expenditures. She also noted that agreed upon employee health insurance costs have been built into the current budget. The 2018 budget, as proposed, includes a real estate tax increase of about \$0.50 per \$100,000 of property value.

Chief Lobermeier and Lt. Julien explained that, with the latter being elevated to Chief in November, the Lieutenant position will be left vacant saving about \$100,000. Of that, some \$30,000 will be added to the part time position's cost, but costs will still be reduced by about \$70,000 (\$100,000-\$30,000). The Chief also noted that LPD's trailer mounted speed monitoring sign is in need of repair or replacement. It was originally purchased from grant funds that are no longer available. It could be refurbished for about \$5,500, or a new one could be purchased for about \$7-9,000. The disabled unit has a trade value of only \$350.

Since the last meeting, \$10,000 for equipment purchases was removed from the PW Budget plan.

### **Borrowing:**

It was clarified that if only Rusk County borrows for the new animal shelter, and then charges the City annually for its share, that additional cost to the City cannot be treated as borrowing, but simply as an annual operating cost. As such, some other expenditure is likely to have to be reduced to cover that increase.

### **Appearance:**

Greg Waggoner appeared in regard to revaluation of his property, which he indicated he has put about \$100,000 into since buying it. He was told the City-wide revaluation will take some time to complete, such that it is likely to be months before any change is proposed for his property. He was assured he will be given notice of when his property is planned to be viewed and of any planned changes to his value. And that there is a rigid process to be followed. Mr. Gorsegner replied to his question by advising that owners who deny the assessor access inside their property essentially waive their right to contest judgements the assessor makes about what he/she supposes exists inside, but cannot see.

### **Next Meetings:**

Plans are to have the Comptroller do a draft budget review similar to this afternoon's near the beginning of the October 2, All Committee meeting. That will still allow for further consideration of input before

the official budget hearing. Because the Committee feels a balanced budget proposal should be presented that evening, motion was made by Moore, seconded by M. Hraban and carried by voice vote to apply \$128,000 from the general fund balance to the 2018 budget so that revenues and expenditures are in balance.

The Committee will also plan to hold a meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:40 p.m.