

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
February 15, 2019 at 3:30pm

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman
 Councilor Dale R. Sprague, Vice Chair
 Councilor Martin Pepin
 Councilor Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Administration/Staff present: Bob Belmore, City Manager
 Scott Smith, Finance Director
 Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Works
 Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk
 Robert Gadomski, School Superintendent

Other: Councilor Richard Michaud
 Mike David, EEI

The meeting called to order by Chairman Witham at 3:30 PM.

APPROVE PAST MEETING MINUTES

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2019 meeting. Motion passed 3-1 Councilor Sprague abstained.

SCHOOL DEPT. FUNDING REQUEST – ENERGY EFFICIENT HVAC / LIGHTING UPGRADES

Manager Belmore updated the Committee that the City received a request from the School Department that they would like to add energy efficient improvements with the upgrades to the original HVAC and lighting system. This would be done by using a lease/purchase agreement. When we were first introduced to this we were under the impression that this needed to go through the City Council for approval, but because there is a non-appropriation clause the approval can be done by the School Board. After looking at the City Charter and after speaking with the City Attorney the need for a City Council vote is now moot.

Superintendent Gadomski stated that the conversation started back when architectural drawings were brought forward. The current lighting and HVAC system is less efficient and requires more maintenance. This would be funded with a lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$300,000 for 15 years. The estimated annual budget effect on the School Department will be neutral because the cost of annual lease payments will be equal to or less than the savings realized by reducing energy consumption.

Mike from EEI explained the energy savings from using energy efficiency lighting and HVAC.

There was a robust discussion on savings, installation and money guarantee.

The Committee consensus had no objections with allowing the School Board to make the decision.

Superintendent Gadomski and Mike David from EEI left at 3:46pm.

WASTE ZERO - STORE DISTRIBUTION SERVICES FOR BLUE BAGS

Director Bobinsky explained to the Committee on how the process works. Currently, the City warehouses the bags and DPW staff delivers to the businesses that sell the bags. There has been times when there are storms or other emergencies that take precedence versus delivering the bags. WasteZero would warehouse the bags, take orders from vendors, monitor and maintain inventory and deliver to vendors.

There was discussion on the cost of bags currently and what they would be with a \$.05 increase which would fund this store distribution service.

Councilor Dumont asked if there were other options to use other than plastic bags. There was discussion about where these bags end up and what else can be used instead of plastic bags.

Manager Belmore explained that a contract with WasteZero hasn't been reviewed yet, but this was more of a conceptual discussion to see if there may be support for this program.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Sprague made a motion to support an Ordinance change to increase the price of trash bags \$.05. Motion passed 4-0.

RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES

Manager Belmore reached out to Waste Management and asked them a few questions regarding the recycling program. He asked if the City could opt out of their services and the answer received wasn't very clear, they have since reached out to their legal team. They suggested that we could modify our current recycling program and remove glass from it because it is heavy and makes the cost higher.

There was a robust discussion on recycling options, whether to remove recycling in the City to help with the cost overage.

Councilor Witham asked if the City could amend the bag fee, and dedicate that increase to help subsidize the cost of recycling. Manager Belmore responded that staff would look into this, and will work up some alternatives for review.

REPORTING

Director Smith stated that he is keeping an eye on the Human Services (Welfare) budget and DPW. We are also watching the Fire Department; the two drivers of this are currently salaries due to the timing of the union contract signing and the equipment maintenance budget, which was recently used on truck maintenance. In regards to the DPW budget the concern is from the recycling collection program. The snow budget seems to be in line with years past.

Councilor Sprague asked why the Assessing Department is only at 38%. Director Smith answered that Assessing is only at 38%, because the re-evaluation has just begun and very little has been spent yet to date. The re-valuation project will not be completed until the fall, therefore any funding not spent during the fiscal year will need to be encumbered.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Sprague had requested information on where we currently are versus other surrounding Cities in regards to our salt budget. There was a handout passed out by Director Bobinsky. The handout showed that the City is about 50% spent in the sand/salt budget.

There was discussion on the number of responses so far this year and when salt and sand versus just sand or just salt was used. There was also a discussion on using brine vs salt and sand.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Dumont made a motion to adjourn at 4:32 PM. Motion passed, 3-1. Councilor Sprague opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk