



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Finance Committee**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM**

**City Hall Council Chambers, 410 E Leffler St, Dodgeville,**

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**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM.

Members present: Sersch, DeVoss, Johnson-Solberg

Also present: Chief Cushman, Chief Wilhelm and Mayor Hottmann

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of minutes from January 13, 2026.

Motion by DeVoss; Seconded by Johnson-Solberg; motion carried 3-0

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

2. Discussion and possible recommendation to the common council to consider multiple officer positions for DPD.

Discussion:

Vacancy exists following officer resignation in November

Two strong candidates identified after recruitment challenges

Chief proposed options:

Hire one full-time officer (current budgeted position)

Hire two full-time officers (proactive staffing approach)

Combination of full-time + part-time

Rationale:

Long hiring/training timeline (~1 year)

Ongoing turnover (approx. one officer/year)

Current staffing shortages causing operational strain

Financial considerations:

Estimated \$60,000 budget flexibility in 2026

Potential to use carryover funds with budget amendment

Legal/union concern addressed:

No requirement to permanently maintain increased staffing level

Future vacancy could remain unfilled

Action:

Motion to recommend to Council to hire 2 officers with one immediate hire; second contingent on Council approval

Motion by Sersch, seconded by Johnson-Solberg, motion carried 3-0

3. Discussion and possible recommendation to common council for needed EMS positions and funding.

Discussion:

Significant staffing shortage and burnout among volunteers:

Volunteers reduced from ~41 to ~26

Many working excessive hours (90–120 hrs/month)

Service challenges:

High call volume (~3 calls/night)

Majority Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement (~40–50% recovery)

Increasing demand (aging population, nursing home calls)

Current needs:

Filling existing part-time EMT positions

Request for 2 additional part-time positions

Long-term outlook:

Potential need for 2 full-time + 2 part-time positions

Consideration of regional or county EMS models

Action:

Motion to recommend the approval of 2 additional part-time EMS positions

Motion by DeVoss; seconded by Johnson-Solberg; Motion carried 3-0

4. Discussion and possible recommendation to the common council for TID 3 upfront paygo.

Discussion:

Developer requires \$25,000 upfront pay-go to engage contractor

Current agreement requires “shovel in ground” before payment

Proposed solution:

Use room tax funds (not property tax)

Risk acknowledged but considered low

Project tied to:

Potential Idle Sites Grant

Significant future room tax revenue

Action:

Motion to recommend to common council to use room tax funds for \$25,000 upfront pay-go

Motion by DeVoss; second by Johnson-Solberg; motion carried 3-0

5. Discussion and possible recommendation to common council for use of TID 2 affordable housing.

Discussion:

Proposal to extend sewer infrastructure (~\$82,000 estimate)

Remaining affordable housing funds: ~\$20,000

Developer interest in:

Housing development (including potential senior/accessible housing)

Concerns:

Cost vs. benefit

Precedent for public infrastructure support

Committee preference:

Further negotiation and cost refinement

Action:

Motion to authorize Mayor to engage in negotiations with developer (Jason Reed)

Motion by Sersch, second by DeVoss; motion carried 3-0

6. Discussion of the use of carryovers and the process moving forward.

Key issues identified:

Lack of historical financial transparency

Unclear distinctions between:

Carryover funds

Restricted funds

Capital outlay accounts

Opportunities identified:

Potential to reduce future borrowing

Better use of existing reserves

Need for clearer financial structure and policies

No formal action taken. Informational discussion only

## **V. ADJOURN**

7. Motion to Adjourn by DeVoss, seconded by Johnson-Solberg. Motion carried 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

*Any person who has a qualifying disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, that requires the meeting or material at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format, must contact the City Clerk at the address listed above or call 930-5228, prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request.*