



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 AT 5:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 106 JONES STREET, WATERTOWN, WI 53094

Members present: Mayor McFarland, Alderpersons Bartz, Davis, Lampe, and Ruetten

Others present: Finance Director Mark Stevens, Attorney Steven Chesebro, Police Chief Robert Kaminski, Fire Chief Travis Teesch, Parks Director Kristine Butteris, Public Works Director Jaynellen Holloway, Lisa Schwartz, Jeff Doyle

Video attendees: Andrew Beyer, Rich Pilitz, Ken Berg, Joel Kallas, Nicole Eithun

1. **Call to order.** Mayor McFarland called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Attorney Chesebro presented a memo that reviewed the **policy for placement of reclassified positions onto the pay schedule**. It made sense to city administration that existing employees that were placed in new grades would be assigned to Step 2 to not have a similar pay to any new hire in the same position. Recent application of this policy has led to questions by department leaders, so leadership agreed to present to Finance Committee for review and direction of the intended implementation. Ald Davis asked if there are any immediate situations, or if this clarification is for future use; Steven indicated there are current applications if an alteration in interpretation is made. The committee asked Steven to provide suggested language consistent with other City policies regarding grade changes.
3. Parks Director Butteris presented her research on options for **Riverside Park restroom construction**. For multiple reasons, the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission reached consensus in its February 20th meeting that an **on-site construction is the best option** for this facility. City staff and commission members have had casual interactions with local contractors and believe more favorable bids are likely. Options for next steps were presented. Ald. Ruetten moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to **rebid with an alternate option for site work to be completed by contractor or city employees**. Approved unanimously by voice vote.
4. Finance Director Stevens presented the **Qtr 1 requests** from departments **for ARPA allocations** with a draft revision for the 2023 ARPA budget. Ald. Ruetten, supported by Ald. Bartz, modified the presentation by reducing park restroom upgrades to \$102,000, eliminating allocation for affordable housing, adding \$90,000 for Main St landscape architect and \$299,267 for FD radio communications and dispatch system. Additionally, city staff has been asked to determine parking additions for the NW downtown quadrant. These changes were approved by voice vote. Mark will revise the budget presentation for the next meeting.
5. Finance Director Stevens indicated that he was working with Ehlers, our investment management firm, to **review interest rate yields** on a number of our investment instruments in light of the increased interest rate market in the recent months.
6. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Ruetten, to **convene into closed session** per Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel who either orally or in writing will advise governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or like litigation (**Fire Department**). This was approved unanimously by roll call vote.
7. Reconvene into open session.

8. Ald. Lampe, supported by Ald. Davis, moved to **convene into closed session** per Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel who either orally or in writing will advise governmental body on strategy to be adopted with respect to current or like litigation (**Achievement Recognition Award**). This was approved unanimously by roll call vote. All non-elected city staff departed.
9. Reconvene into open session.
10. Ald. Bartz moved, supported by Ald. Lampe, to award an ARA bonus to ARA ID#1 and an ARA vacation day to ARA ID #3. Approved by voice vote.
11. Adjournment. Ald. Lampe moved to approve adjournment at 7:22, seconded by Ald. Davis, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.