



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023, AT 5:30 PM

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

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

Others present: Finance Director Stevens, Fire Chief Teesch, Water/WW Manager Hartz

1. **Call to order.** Mayor McFarland called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Bartz, to **approve the minutes of the October 3 through 12** meetings with one correction: 10/09: Mayor McFarland opened this meeting; not Ald. Bartz. The minutes were approved unanimously with this noted change.
3. Mr. Hartz recommended the **hiring of Jake Nehls** as the collection system specialist at G/S H1 [\$23.47/hr]. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to approve this request. All approved.
4. Mr. Hartz recommended a **two-step adjustment** from G/S I5 to G/S I7 [\$29.78/hr] be awarded to **Martin Larson**, effective October 18, for the successful completion of two WI DNR certifications. A motion was made by Ald. Bartz, supported by Ald. Davis, to approve this request. All approved.
5. Chief Teesch presented a 2024 contract for the provision of **EMS coverage for the Township of Lebanon** for \$63,040 (per capita @ \$40), an increase of \$9,040 over last year's agreement. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to move forward with this contract. All approved.
6. Mason Becker, Development Coordinator, provided a memo that indicated a prospective developer for property adjacent to the by-pass would be interested in an **update in a hotel feasibility study** last completed in 2020. He requested a budget modification in Fund 60 [Economic Development] of \$7,160 to be assessed to Marketing [60-51-05-25]. Ald. Bartz recommended, supported by Ald. Lampe, to recommend a modification to the Council. All approved.
7. The **WI Election Commission** has recently declared the necessity of all municipalities participating in the **Badger Book election poll books to complete a MOU** with the State. Ald. Davis motioned, seconded by Ald. Bartz, to approve this MOU. All approved.
8. Mr. Stevens provided a **Fund 01 income statement** through September 2023.
9. The initial costs for the fire station project total an amount that exceeds the initial assumption of \$12.5 million due to increased costs of building materials. Maas Brothers is working to secure better estimates, and the process of value engineering has not been reviewed yet (both happening next week). Mr. Stevens requested Baird provide **different debt approaches at different borrowing levels**. These were discussed; consensus was to prefer the scheduling of payments to begin right away on new borrowed funds. This approach provides a level borrowing amount for much of the next twenty years with a decreasing mill rate over time due to a 2% growth assumption in the equalized property values.
10. A motion was made by Ald. Bartz, seconded by Ald. Lampe to **convene into closed session** per Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel of the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. (Yagow v. City of Watertown) Approved by roll call vote.
11. The committee reconvened into open session.

12. Adjournment. Ald. Davis moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Bartz, 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.