

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 12, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman
Councilor Donald Austin, Vice-Chairman
Councilor Martin P. Dumont, Sr.

Committee Members Absent: Councilor Gerding

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore
Finance Director & Deputy City Manager Scott Smith
City Clerk Jonathan Slaven
Public Works Director Michael Bobinsky
City Engineer Amber Hall

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Witham.

APPROVE PAST MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Councilor Austin made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dumont and passed 3-0.

REVIEW LANDFILL SOLAR ARRAY PROPOSALS

City Manager Belmore explained that he, along with City Engineer Amber Hall and Finance Director Scott Smith, interviewed the six companies who submitted proposals. The group narrowed the search to three companies which was also discussed with Public Works and Environment Committee. He informed the Committee is focusing on a smaller array and the Public Works and Environment Committee recommended they meet with Amersco.

Director Smith stated that each company gave a few options and pointed to a chart given to the Committee laying out the breakdown based on term, size, etc. He explained that size relates to the wattage output to the grid and, therefore, the size of the array. The City uses approximately 3 million kilowatts per year so a smaller array should fit the City's needs. The proposals for the larger arrays are the best financially for the City, however there isn't a provision in State law that could accommodate off-loading the power. As it currently exists, we would need to enter into a purchase power agreement (PPA) with a contractor so any array would need to be sized to provide the power between use.

Councilor Witham stated that the Public Works Committee landed on Amersco Option #2 since it is smaller and would still give the City some financial gain with the hope to expand down the line. He recommends a full Council Workshop on the matter. Manager Belmore noted that the EPA has been advocating for a solar array on this property. Manager Belmore also informed the Committee we would be conducting a risk analysis of the possible impacts to the superfund remedy due to an installation of a solar array on the site. He added that all companies being considered have agreed to pay for the analysis in part or in full.

The Committee reached a consensus to request holding a Council Workshop inviting Amersco to attend and discuss their proposal.

ROCKY HILL ROAD CULVERT BUDGET

Councilor Witham stated the culvert failure led to temporary repairs and the Public Works and Environment Committee is recommending replacing with a box culvert.

City Engineer Hall stated that the project had previously been estimated some time ago to come in around \$150,000, though the new projections show it to be closer to \$300,000. She also explained that a guardrail installation has been recommended adding an additional \$30,000. Ms. Hall said the project initially assumed to replace a 36" culvert with a 48" one, but after further analysis found that it would be too close to a sewer main and would not fit. In order to allow the culvert to be able to pass a 25-year storm, a (6'x3'x40") box culvert is recommended. Ms. Hall also explained that the depth (16") of the water main also adds to the cost of the project.

Councilor Witham said the work could be done this summer during a low flow period. He stated that the work to replace the water main would come from the Water Funds, the work to replace the sewer main would come from the Sewer Fund, and the rest of the work would be paid for from the General Fund. He also mentioned the possibility of utilizing ARPA funds for the project. Director Smith stated the ARPA funds are likely able to be used due to recent rules allowing for greater leniency on what they can be used for.

The Committee reached a consensus to support the authorization to bid the project as submitted.

EPA NITROGEN GENERAL PERMIT CONSULTANT COST

City Manager Belmore explained that the City previously opted to not join the Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management (MAAM) consortium, but rather go about the permitting process on our own due to lack of budget control. The consultant cost for the City is \$13,862 to include labor and analysis which is part of an EPA permit requirement. Councilor Witham asked if this would be paid for from the Sewer Fund. Director Smith responded in the affirmative.

The Committee found no objection to the authorization of expenditure for the consultant.

TAX DEEDED PROPERTIES

Director Smith referred the committee to a list provided showing properties subject to tax deeding. He said the first set of properties are mobile homes with outstanding taxes. He said that it has been the practice of the City to select the accounts that have the longest period of years to accept the deed, and waive the deeding on the others. He said the City has been incrementally picking away at the mobile home list of properties with outstanding tax payments. He stated there are 13 properties on the list this year whereas they have had upwards of 36 in the past.

Director Smith said the second grouping of properties are land and buildings, which if left unpaid the City would take the deed. And the final property is land on Wexford Lane which the City has waived the tax deed for a number of years. Councilor Witham stated that this is due to the property have debris on it and would need to be cleaned up.

Councilor Dumont made a motion to sponsor a Resolution to vote to not accept the tax deeds on tax and map 87-29M through 82-49M on the list under the mobile homes and 35-12A and 35-12B on Wexford Lane. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 3-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

City Manager Belmore explained that the City was recently notified of the award of a grant for body-worn cameras and the Public Safety Committee would review the specifics of the program. He stated the grant is a 50/50 match with the City's contribution coming in at \$27k. Manager Belmore suggested that funding for the cameras come from the drug forfeiture fund (\$10k) and cable fund (\$17k).

Councilor Witham said he likes the idea of pulling from multiple places and inquired if there was anything in this year's operating budget. Director Smith said it is not likely due to the overtime issues being caused by Covid. Councilor Witham asked if there will be a need for annual maintenance of the cameras and where will that money come from. Director Smith said yes and that would be included in the operating budget. Manager Belmore also mentioned that the CIP allows for the replacement of a computer server which can handle the volume of video otherwise this project would be more costly.

Councilor Austin made a motion to support a Resolution and Supplemental Appropriation for the purchase of body-worn cameras. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dumont and passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Dumont made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Austin and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk