

Minutes of the Finance Committee (February 5th 2013)

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the City of Prairie du Chien was held on Tuesday February 5th 2013 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Chairperson Kathleen Hein called the meeting to order.

1. Call to order/Roll Call

PRESENT – Kathleen Hein (Chairperson), Linda Munson, Mark Thein, Frank Pintz, Judeen Ames
ALSO PRESENT – Mayor Dave Hemmer, City Administrator Aaron Kramer, Co-Public Works Manager Larry Gates, Co-Public Works Manager Terry Meyer

2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda

MOTION: Munson SECOND: Ames VOTE: 5-0

3. APPROVAL – Minutes of the January 22nd 2013 meeting

ACTION: To approve MOTION: Munson SECOND: Pintz VOTE: 5-0

Without objection the agenda was moved:

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Fees and Rebates involving Vierbicher Associates

At the last Finance Committee meeting, Alderman Pintz requested more information on the fees charged and rebates provided to the City by Vierbicher Associates for work done in 2012. Kurt Muchow (Vierbicher) was present to discuss this issue. Vierbicher charged the City \$188,351.81 in fees in 2012, and rebated the City back \$10,085.18 under the current Master Services Agreement. He noted Vierbicher will not be increasing its fees to the City in 2013. No formal action was taken.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Room Tax

At its November 5th 2012 meeting, the Committee made the following motion - To direct the City Administrator to review the state statutes on the room tax and present a report to the Finance Committee on alternative options for disbursing the funds. A memo outlining some possible changes is included in the packet, as well as the following attachments (from the Wisconsin Hotel and Lodging Association) - A. Room Tax – The Law in Wisconsin – A Basic Primer; B. Wisconsin Room Tax Statute; C. Room Tax Revenue – Examples of Proper and Improper Use. Patti Wacker (Tourism Council) addressed the Committee and answered questions about the room tax and its application. She provided several handouts for the Committee explaining where funds have been spent over the past eight years. LuAnne Neumann (Neumann House Bed and Breakfast) and Mike Hager (Mulligans, member of the Tourism Council) also addressed the Committee regarding the room tax. The City Administrator stated there were several options available including maintaining the status quo or creating a Tourism Commission, permissible under state law, to replace the Tourism Council. The Commission would be appointed by the Mayor. Pintz said he felt the Committee needed more time to consider the information provided and the options. ACTION: To table the item until a Finance Committee meeting in March MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Munson VOTE: 5-0

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Claims

No action was taken, and the item was sent to the Council with no recommendation.

7. ADJOURNMENT (6:58 PM)

MOTION: Pintz SECOND: Munson VOTE: 5-0

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer