

Minutes of the Finance Committee November 6th 2014

A meeting of the City of Prairie du Chien Finance Committee was held on Thursday November 6th 2014 at 7:00 PM in City Hall. Chairman Nate Gilberts called the meeting to order.

GENERAL ITEMS TO BE ACTED UPON:

1. Call to order/Roll Call - Nate Gilberts (Chairperson), Jean Titlbach, Karen Solomon, and Ken Fleshner
ABSENT – Kyle Kozelka CITY STAFF ALSO PRESENT- Mayor Dave Hemmer, City Administrator Aaron Kramer, Police Chief Chad Abram, Fire Chief Harry Remz, WWTP Manager Terry Meyer, Police Lieutenant Terry Sprosty

2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda – MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Fleshner VOTE: 4-0

3. APPROVAL – Minutes of the October 21st 2014 meeting – MOTION: Titlbach SECOND: Solomon VOTE: 4-0

ACTION ITEMS

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Proposed 2015 Budget

City Administrator Kramer presented the proposed 2015 budget. The levy increase is proposed to be 0.75 percent, the smallest tax increase since 2011, and the second smallest increase in the past decade. The budget includes a one (1) percent salary increase. The Police Department budget includes a new 3-year lease with Ford Motor Credit, at \$27,531.68 per year, for three (3) 2015 Ford Interceptor Utility vehicles. At the conclusion of the lease, the City will own the vehicles for \$1. The garbage collection fee has been increased from \$140 to \$145 per year (\$0.42 per month). The increase was due to an increase in the cost of the city's contracted garbage services with Town and Country Sanitation. Kramer said the remaining unallocated funds in the budget were roughly \$70,000. He presented a plan for using the remaining funds. Marlene Dyer, Judy Wall and Luanne Neumann spoke in favor of the City funding PDC Main Street/PRDI. Kramer said he understood that the original request of \$15,000 had been scaled back to \$8,000 and the possibility of the group operating out of City Hall. He said his requested list of the unallocated funds did not include any PDRI funding at this time. Kramer said additional funds could be placed in the Contingency Fund and provided to PDRI when they have reached set fundraising goals. Dyer, Wall and Neumann said they believed the City should provide the funds now to show support for their downtown efforts. Dyer said the group has received about \$2,600 in contributions, with a goal of having an annual operating budget of around \$65,000. She said the budget would be smaller in 2015 because the group is not looking to hire a full-time director until the summer of 2015. Committee members had considerable discussion regarding the funding request. The Committee took the following motions:

ACTION: To direct the City Administrator and city staff to meet with members of PDRI to work on a city funding plan MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Fleshner VOTE: 4-0

ACTION: To approve the following additional expenditures - \$3,210 for one (1) additional part-time position in the Public Works Department; \$29,500 for a citywide reassessment, a four-year commitment; \$13,000 for four (4) sets of turnout gear for the Fire Department; \$4,000 for four (4) patrol rifles for the Police Department MOTION: Fleshner SECOND: Gilberts VOTE: 4-0

ACTION: To transfer 25 percent (\$15,812) of Nick Gilbert's salary from the WWTP Fund to the Park and Rec Department MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Titlbach VOTE: 3-0-1 (Gilberts abstained)

Kramer said this would leave approximately \$104,000 in the Contingency Fund, and he would present a final budget draft to the Common Council on November 11th or 18th.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Common Council Compensation

A proposal from Alderman Fleshner was included which would include wage increases for members of the Council for a number of items including Committee chairmanships, attendance and the Council President. Discussion was held on the proposal. Kramer reminded the Council that any pay increases would not take effect until a member passed through an election cycle, so there would be no immediate budget impact

ACTION: To increase the base pay for Council members \$50 a month, effective with the April 2015 election

(the two at-large positions) and the April 2016 election (the six Councilmembers who were elected in April 2014) MOTION: Gilberts SECOND: Fleshner VOTE: 4-0

6. ADJOURNMENT (8:30 PM)

MOTION: Solomon SECOND: Gilberts VOTE: 4-0

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer