

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 14, 2010 AT 7:21 P.M.  
LINCOLN CENTER – 1519 WATER STREET**

PRESENT: Alderperson Moore, Molski, R. Stroik, Mallison, Brooks

ALSO

PRESENT: C/T Schlice; Mayor Halverson; City Attorney Molepske; Ald. Wiza, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, O'Meara, M. Stroik, Suomi; Directors Morrissey, Schrader; Assessor Siebers; Chief Ruder; Deputy C/T Freeberg; Asst. to Mayor Pazdernik; Matthew Brown; Barb Jacob; Mary Ann Laszewski

**1. ASSESSOR'S REPORT.**

Assessor Siebers stated they have completed the assessment roll for 2010 and have filed the report to the State for the five cases they had at the Board of Review. He reviewed the graphs and charts that were enclosed in the packet. He stated that in the first five months, we have had 97 sales, which is up a bit over the last two years, but down significantly from the years of 2005-2007. They believe that the stimulus given to first time homebuyers has had a big effect on home sales here in the City. The homes that are selling are under the \$125,000 mark and the homes that are priced over \$200,000 are very slow in the market at this time. He also stated that the average residential sales ratio shows that it is still going down, to 86%, which is a good sign because it means that the values are holding their own, however we do feel that they are being heavily influenced by the sales of the lower priced homes. He feels with the stimulus for first time homebuyers coming to an end, the next six months will really be a telltale sign of what is happening in the market. They did find out from the State that Manufacturing does have some decreases but the State looks at the economics of the City as a whole. The State came up with the economics for equalization purposes for residential will be down \$8,600,000, which is about 1% and our commercial sector is going down about 7.8%, which is a decrease of about \$46,871,700. He asked to keep in mind that the City taxes on the assessed value but the schools and County tax on equalized value. He does feel that since the City's equalized value is going down by this amount that the others will also go down.

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Mallison to approve the report of the Assessor and place it on file.

Ayes: All                      Nays: None                      Motion carried.

**2. HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRANT.**

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. Brooks to approve advancing the funds for the Historical Society Grant.

Ayes: All                      Nays: None                      Motion carried.

**3. CDBG APPLICATION.**

Director Morrissey stated that several months ago, Mayor Halverson and himself met with the

Department of Commerce representatives and one of the things they are trying to do is to create an inventory of redevelopment property. They have been finding it difficult when developers come to the area and want to know what property is available for redevelopment and we have to try to point out areas that are or might be, so we need to create the inventory and to improve the environment so that properties are clean when developers come to town. They have identified several properties in the downtown area where their economic life is been spent and it is time to recycle that property and this grant would permit us an opportunity to do some environmental testing, acquire the property, do some demolition and/or rehabilitation where needed and gives us a 50% discount for the properties that we would acquire.

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Molski to approve the CDBG grant application process.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, asked for future reference that we do not abbreviate things as the general public may not know what it means. She stated that she would like to know what the \$400,000 is going to be spent on before it is approved, such as which site and what is going to be done and feels that if it is a CDA site that they apply for the grant themselves. She does not approve of spending the money on the four sites that she can think of, City Garage, Lullabye and the dry cleaning sites, and feels there needs to be more information released before this gets approved.

Ald. Stroik clarified his motion is strictly to approve the application process only, it is not approving the spending of any money at this point.

Ayes: All                      Nays: None                      Motion carried.

**ITEM #4 – ROOM TAX REPORT – 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2009 & 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2010.**

Ald. Moore stated that everything is moving according to the plan and that the good news is that even in the slow economy, the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter room tax revenue is up 15% over the same period last year, which is an increase of \$20,862.19. He is hoping that newly renovated Goerke Field has something to do with the increase.

Motion made by Ald. Brooks, seconded by Ald. Molski to accept the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2009 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2010 room tax reports and place them on file.

Ayes: All                      Nays: None                      Motion carried.

Ald. Stroik commented that he does feel that Goerke Field does have something to do with the increase. He stated that at the end of this week Eastbay is sponsoring a combined training for kids from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, which has 500 participants, plus parents and siblings.

**ITEM #5 – APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.**

Motion made by Ald. Mallison, seconded by Ald. Brooks to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$171,909.07.

The claims were discussed.

Ayes: All                      Nays: None                      Motion carried.

**ITEM #6 – ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION (AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 P.M.)  
PURSUANT TO WISCONSIN STATUTES 19.85(G) TO CONFER WITH LEGAL  
COUNSEL WITH RESPECT TO LITIGATIONS – DIAL, BURKHARDT AND THE  
NEWPAGE APPEAL.**

Motion made by Ald. Stroik, seconded by Ald. Brooks to adjourn into closes session at 7:37 P.M.  
pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85(g).

Ayes: Ald. Molski, Moore, R. Stroik, Mallison and Brooks      Nays: None      Motion carried.

Adjourned in closed session at 8:12 P.M.