

Meeting Minutes
Finance Committee

October 13, 2008, 6:20 p.m.

Lincoln Center, 1519 Water St. PRESENT: Alderpersons Molski, Walthers, Moore, Stroik and Hanson

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Halverson; C/T Schlice; City Attorney Molepske; Clerk Moe; Directors Euclide, Gardner and Schrader; Assessor Siebers; Personnel Specialist Jakusz; Transit Manager Lemke; Acting Fire Chief Zinda; Chief Morris; Captain Dowling; Ald. Wiza, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Heart, Myers, Brooks; Secretary Church; Joel Lemke; Gene Kemmeter; Officer Kratzke; Gene Kemmeter; Meredith Thorn; Melba Sullivan; Dave Olson; Mary Ann Laszewski; John Thompson; Jeremy Beaudry; Tony Patton

Index of these minutes:

1. Assessor's Report.
2. Consideration of Quote to demolish 941 Portage Street.
3. Consideration of Forestry Grant Application.
4. Consideration of Fiber Optic Study.
5. Proposal for Pollution cleanup at former Normington Site - 3049 Church Street.
6. Approval of Payment of Claims.
7. Adjournment.

1. ASSESSOR'S REPORT.

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

2. CONSIDERATION OF QUOTE TO DEMOLISH 941 PORTAGE STREET.

C/T Schlice stated that the quote is from Stuczynski, who has also been awarded the quote to demolish the other two buildings in the downtown area that we have acquired. It still has to go through design/review and once we get approval for that then they will have the authorization.

Ald. Stroik questioned which other buildings would be taken down at the same time.

C/T Schlice replied probably Eagle Plumbing and this one.

Ald. Stroik questioned if there was a financial incentive for us if we take all three of them down at the same time.

C/T Schlice stated he believes he has given us a fair price.

Motion made by Ald. Moore, seconded by Ald. Molski to approve the consideration of the quote from Stuczynski to demolish 941 Portage Street in the amount of \$9500.00.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

3. CONSIDERATION OF FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION.

C/T Schlice stated that our City Forester has requested authorization to apply for this grant and there is no out of pocket money involved and will be covered by wages and equipment use. We are just looking for authorization to apply for the grant.

Motion made by Ald. Walthers, seconded by Ald. Hanson to approve the Forestry Grant application.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

4. CONSIDERATION OF FIBER OPTIC STUDY.

C/T Schlice stated Joel Lemke is there to answer any questions and will be making a brief presentation. This has been in the works for a little over a year and this is something that will be valuable to the City if the study proves out that we can do this in a cost justifiable manner. This is a good time to be looking at this because we have a five year phone contract that is expiring this November.

Joel Lemke stated this would be the optimum way to get all the buildings to talk to each other. The way it is right now each building depends on their own connections to the outside world to get back to the other buildings, whether it is making a phone call or to transfer files back and forth. One of the biggest advantages is the reasonable payback time but the other thing that needs to be considered is that it is creating a non-existing data network which will allow us to do things like maintain backup of things that may not be done right now. We would own the infrastructure that we would use so it would save us leasing charges that we currently pay.

Ald. Stroik questioned if the \$700,000 would mean that we have no other monthly expenses.

Joel Lemke stated the \$700,000 includes the underground portion of this, the infrastructure, the conduit that will carry the fiber, the new equipment within the buildings which will include the data and the phone, any new racking that is needed and also it may need to include a couple of buildings that need to be recabled. To sum it up, it would include all the infrastructure, the hardware, call managers (which basically means we would have our own phone system), all the phones and all the servers to run all of it. The monthly services that will be gotten rid of are going to be all the exterior ones, so with this type of network in place, you would be bringing the phone and internet service into one place, City Hall, so that will be managed in one spot.

Ald. Stroik questioned how much money we are actually saving. We may not be paying the monthly charge, but who is going to manage the system, are we now going to have pay someone to do that.

Joel Lemke stated he believes we have resources available to do that. He stated it is a pretty simple system and we already have staff in place to take care of the problems. One of the most complicated things involved with this is adding a desk phone and it is a relatively easy process. Other than that, you would be dealing with server issues, which is already a fulfilled need in the City.

Ald. Stroik questioned if we would still contract with the current internet provider.

Joel Lemke stated yes, you are still going to need phone service and internet service. You will just need it at one place rather than going to all the other buildings.

Ald. Stroik questioned long term issues, for example, he has heard that we are running out of space at the City Garage. So, if in ten years from now when we determine that we need to move the City Garage, after we have already invested in fiber optic lines to the current facility, what is that going to cost.

Joel Lemke stated that no matter where you would place a building in the future, he believes cost would still be justified.

Ald. Stroik questioned what the life span is on these lines and how long before they are outdated with the changing technology world.

Joel Lemke stated that we have a couple of areas in town that we already have conduit in the ground and we are going to use a bunch of those. The latest stuff we put in, we have put in three, side by side, so we can use the first one and if the time comes that we need to upgrade something, we have two empty ones. We can pull the old stuff out of the other one also. That is the sort of thing that we do to plan for what your future needs are going to be. On top of that, if you need more bandwidth from building to building you use more fiber. You usually pull more than you need and then leave several strands open and then when you need them, they are there.

Motion made by Ald. Hanson, seconded by Ald. Moore to approve the fiber optic readiness assessment with cost not to exceed \$7,000 and to bring it back to Committee for review.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

5. PROPOSAL FOR POLLUTION CLEANUP AT FORMER NORMINGTON SITE - 3049 CHURCH STREET.

Director Gardner reviewed the reasons why this item is being pulled. It will be brought back at a later date.

6. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.

Motion made by Ald. Moore, seconded by Ald. Molski to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$1,487,490.64.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Adjournment at 6:42 P.M.

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