

Meeting Minutes  
Finance Committee  
October 9, 2006, 6:40 P.M.  
City Water Department, 300 Bliss Ave.

PRESENT: Alderpersons Molski, Moore, Stroik and Hanson

EXCUSED: Alderperson Walther

ALSO PRESENT: C/T Schlice; Directors Euclide, Gardner, Schrader, Halverson; Fire Chief Barnes; Police Chief Morris; Capt. Ruder; Deputy C/T Wroblewski; Ald. Sevenich, Wiza, Barber, Robinson, Slowinski, Trzebiatowski, Gene Kemmeter, Don Rahn, Mike Phillips

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  2. 2005 Audit Report - Don Rahn, Virchow Krause.
  3. Whitetail Trail Subdivision: A. Control of Oak Wilt. B. Application for DNR Grant.
  4. Amendment to Scorpio Development Agreement and TIF Bond - NorthPoint Shopping Center.
  5. Approval of payment of claims.
  6. 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. 2005 AUDIT REPORT - DON RAHN, VIRCHOW KRAUSE.

Don Rahn, Virchow Krause, gave the presentation of the 2005 audit report. He stated there was a lot of information in the audit report and that it is condensed and detailed in the MD&A (Management Discussion and Analysis). He stated that in regards to the main operating budget, the City had higher revenues but also higher expenses, overall we spend approximately \$200,000 less than planned. The fund balance is at \$12 million, which is within the 4-6 month range of expenditures, as recommended. The debt service is about \$6 million, which is about 13% of capacity, which places the City in an excellent position when a lot of your peers are in the 40-60% range. When looking at financials you must look at them over a period of time to look for trends and the City has been consistent over a period of time with no material issues that have occurred. The audit report matches the balances in the financial system and there were no disagreements with staff over any issues and we are issuing a clean audit opinion. If there are any questions, contact either himself or C/T Schlice.

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. Moore to accept the 2005 audit report and place it on file.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

## 3. WHITETAILED TRAIL SUBDIVISION: A. CONTROL OF OAK WILT. B. APPLICATION FOR DNR GRANT.

C/T Schlice stated that since we are the developer of this subdivision, we are responsible for rectifying some of the problem that we have with the oak wilt. We need to try to contain it and the City Forester has been putting in a lot of hours out there and he has been working with him to come up with some ideas of how we can lessen some of the costs and he came up with the idea of applying for the DNR grant, which is part of the recommendation. The grant would be for a 50% match and the City's share is already in the budget (i.e. labor), so there would not be any hard cash outlay. We are also recommending to trench the lot lines to try to limit the areas that the oak wilt is moving into and he recommends that we fund the trenching from the proceeds that we have from Whitetail Trail lot sales. The removal of trees is another area that we would have to take from the proceeds on the City owned lots, and on the private lots, it would be special assessed against their property. We are recommending that rather than each individual going out and contract out for their own tree price, the City would bid it out as a package which could save everybody money. It would be a good pilot project just to see how good all the trenching is working and Todd wants to work with UW to work out some programs, which is something we could share with other subdivisions in the area, if we are successful.

Ald. Molski questioned why the oak wilt is scattered throughout the map, doesn't it spread through the roots.

C/T Schlice explained that sometimes it does go through the roots, but they cannot explain why it jumps around.

Director Schrader stated that a lot of it came from the storm that went through last spring and knocked a bunch of the trees over and broke limbs off. He stated it can also be transferred via limbs.

Ald. Hanson stated that during the summertime it is more active, so the best time is between October 1 and April 1.

C/T Schlice stated that Todd has been working with the developers as they have been going out to do the clearings for the lots. He also stated that on a good note, the sales are going very well and he is looking to have the majority of the lots sold by the end of next year.

Ald. Stroik questioned what we are looking to do.

C/T Schlice stated we are looking for approval to allow the City to contract out as a bulk unit for taking down the trees that are marked and authorization to use proceeds from the subdivision to pay for our portion of the trenching. We would trench the subdivision to try to restrict where the oak wilt is moving to. The second part of that would be to apply for the DNR grant and if we could get that, it would bring the cost of the trenching down on both the private and public owned land. We would ask the private owners to clear the brush and everything away from that area that was marked for trenching, that way when the trenchers come in they can just go straight through without a lot of delay, which will help keep the cost down too.

Ald. Molski asked if the grant that we are applying for is for the trenching.

C/T Schlice stated it is for trenching, tree removal from both public and private land and working with the UW to try to come up with some other method for restricting the spread of the disease.

Ald. Stroik questioned if private owners could opt out of having this done, for instance if they only have one tree and say they will take it down

themselves and they will not trench, would that change the effectiveness of the whole project.

C/T Schlice stated that if they do not trench, they would risk having more trees get the disease later and will cost them more for future tree removal. The trenching would not be charged back to the property owner so they should not object.

Ald. Stroik states if they elect out, they could cause problems for other areas.

C/T Schlice stated yes, they could. He stated he is not sure if we can force them to trench, but he will check into it, but he is sure it won't be a problem for the homeowners.

Ald. Hanson questioned if this is a one time situation.

C/T Schlice stated right now this would be for this coming year and we would see what happens from that point forward. We could package the tree cutting again next year.

Ald. Hanson questioned if somebody said they do not want the City to do it, but they do not cut the tree down, what will happen.

C/T Schlice stated they have been ordered to cut down infected trees.

Mike Phillips questioned if the tree is cut down, does the stump have to then be cut out also.

C/T Schlice replied there is some treatment that has to be done to the stump. We would follow the City Foresters recommendations.

Director Schrader stated there is plenty of information about oak wilt on the City website under the Parks department.

C/T Schlice stated there is information given out during the sale of the lots about oak wilt. We are trying our best to contain the disease.

Motion made by Ald. Moore, seconded by Ald. Hanson to approve the \$11,375 for trenching between lot lines and to use the sale proceeds to cover it, to approve the application for the grant, and to allow the homeowners to tag on to the City's tree removal contract.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

#### 4. AMENDMENT TO SCORPIO DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND TIF BOND - NORTHPOINT SHOPPING CENTER.

Motion made by Ald. Moore, seconded by Ald. Hanson to approve the amendment to Scorpio Development Agreement and TIF Bond for the Northpoint Shopping Center.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. Stroik to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$452,945.08.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Adjournment at 6:55 P.M.

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