

Meeting Minutes

FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 10, 2001, 8:45 P.M.

Council Chambers - County-City Building PRESENT: Chairman Barr, Ald. Rackow, Phillips, Nealis and Molski

ALSO PRESENT: Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice; Mayor Wescott; City Attorney Molepske; City Clerk Zdroik; Admin. Assistant Molepske; Directors Van Alstine, Gardner, Schrader, Disher; Assessor Kuehn; Fire Chief Barnes; Capt. Daubert; Deputy Comptroller-Treasurer Freeberg; Ald. Walther, Sevenich, Seiser, Moore, Sowieja, Filipiak; Reid Rocheleau; Gene Kemmeter (Portage County Gazette)

1. ASSESSOR S REPORT

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

2. 3RD QUARTER ROOM TAX REPORT

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice stated that everything is tracking according to schedule.

Motion made by Ald. Molski, seconded by Ald. Phillips to accept the 3rd quarter room tax report and place it on file.

Ald. Rackow stated that he remembers when the room tax money was expended long before it was collected. That meant that the City bankrolled their projects until room tax funds caught up. He stated that he did not like that arrangement and is happy to see the program change. He questioned a newspaper article that mentioned using room tax money as a possibility to renovate Emerson School and he questioned how the room tax accounts would be affected.

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice replied some of the numbers that he has heard have been around the \$3,000,000 and since we take in about \$350,000 per year, the projects that have been approved over next four years would need to be taken out and you still would be without any new projects for an additional five years. It would be about ten years to repay that back on a loan, not counting operational items.

Ald. Nealis questioned if there was guidelines that needed to be followed as to where the money can be put.

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice stated that a portion of it goes to Convention and Visitors Bureau, which would not be impacted by this, but the remaining balance would be up to the Common Council. When it was first adopted, it was for recreational purposes, not operational purposes.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

3. WRITE-OFF OF UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNTS

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice explained that this is the same as we have done in the past. This is something that is done every year or so to clean up the records. The total is \$649.95 for accounts receivables and \$21,281.57 for personal property tax.

Ald. Sowieja questioned if any of these go to court for liens.

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice stated that we do take the ones that we can collect on to small claims court, but most of the write-offs have no assests or can not be found to file papers on.

Motion made by Ald. Nealis, seconded by Ald. Molski to approve the write-off of uncollectible accounts as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

4. TRINITY PARKING LOT AGREEMENT

Director Gardner stated that this was a lease that was created in 1987 in which the City leased 75 parking spaces from Trinity Lutheran Church. The spaces were subleased to Associated Bank to provide parking for their employees. The lease is up for renewal and must be approved by the Common Council after being reviewed by the Plan Commission. The leased spaces do provide extra parking for downtown employees and without them, more spaces would need to be created. Associated Bank has agreed to pay the entire cost of the lease, including parking lot snow removal. Staff would recommend approval of the five year lease and the sublease to Associated Bank.

Chairman Barr questioned if the money coming in is enough to offset the costs of administration.

Director Gardner stated that administration costs have been very little to date.

Ald. Seiser stated that she feels Trinity should be charging more than \$5.00 per stall.

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Ald. Phillips to approve the renewal of the Trinity parking lot agreement as presented.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

5. PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Ald. Phillips to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$611,419.84.

The claims were discussed.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Adjournment at 8:57 p.m.

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