

Meeting Minutes

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 12, 2000 AT 7:55 P.M.

CITY WATER DEPARTMENT Present: Chairman Barr, Ald. Rackow, Phillips, Nealis, and Pazdernik

Also Present: Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice; Mayor Wescott; City Attorney Molepske; Clerk Zdroik; Interim Admin. Asst. Marciniak; Directors Van Alstine, Gardner; Schrader; Assessor Kuehn; Administrator Disher; Capt. Daubert; Personnel Specialist Jakusz; Ald. Kedrowski, Walther; Sevenich, Molski, Seiser; Finance Clerk Freeberg; Janet Zander (Portage County Commission on Aging); Gene Kemmeter (Gazette); Scott Krueger (WIZD)

ITEMS

1. Assessor s Report.

2. Request for Funding:

A. Lincoln Center Study.

B. Telecommunications Study.

3. Consideration of Claim - Diane Spare.

4. Transfer of Funds - Hwy 10 Project.

5. Community Based Economic Development Grant.

6. Approval of Payment of Claims.

7. Adjourn into Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(e) for the Purpose of Negotiating the Purchase of Property (approximately 20 minutes).

8. Reconvene into Open Session - Possible Action on Closed Session.

9. Adjournment.

ITEM #1 - ASSESSOR S REPORT

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

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #2A - REQUEST FOR FUNDING - LINCOLN CENTER STUDY

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice explained that the request is for splitting the cost for getting an update on the planning documents with the City paying \$3,750.

Director Gardner stated that the purpose of the report is to evaluate program needs and expansion options.

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Ald. Pazdernik to approve the funding for the Lincoln Center Study.

Ald. Kedrowski questioned whether the City paid for any of the study that was done in 1999 and also, how much that study was.

Janet Zander responded that the County paid for the original study in the amount of \$3,800.

Ald. Kedrowski questioned the original study was \$3,800 and the add on study is \$7,500.

Janet Zander stated that the first study was to get a handle on how much additional space would be needed by the Department for the public space needs analysis so what they did is review all the programs operating in the building, how much additional space is needed for current operations, what the projected growth would be and came up with a square footage. Their task was to look at program space needs as opposed to building design layout and parking issues, which is what this study will be looking at.

Ald. Seiser asked for an overview of the results of first study in regards to the square footage.

Janet Zander replied that right now they have 15,000 square feet in the present building and does not have a basement level and the addition calls for 17,990 square feet added to that.

Ald. Seiser questioned the options on the proposal and expressed reservations on taking houses, lots and green space to expand the Center.

Ald. Phillips stated that he is on the Committee for this project and would back the amount being asked for, they need to do that because the County does have other property that is vacant that they might consider for building a new facility which could be expanded in the future. If they expand on the current property, they will be limited in the future. He stated that they need to look at all the options so a good decision is made this time.

Mayor Wescott questioned if this study will be looking at the other sites.

Janet Zander stated it is her understanding that this study will only be looking at this property and not other sites.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #2B - TELECOMMUNICATION STUDY

Mayor Wescott stated he is requesting permission to hire or seek a consultant who will write a request for proposal for the City to build its own fiber optic network. The City currently has a internal network connecting government buildings. We are currently negotiating with Charter Communications which owns the fiber optic network in the City. He stated that he has been made aware of other municipalities that are currently in the process of building their own fiber optic networks within the community. Winnebago County is up and running on a fiber optic network with their government facilities and the school system. A lot of money is currently being spent in a lot of different areas, such as: long distance

telephone, long distance telephone access, wide area network access, Internet access, and web server access. He stated he would like to bring in a technical expert who can write a proposal to see what it would cost for the City to have its own network. That would help eliminate the costs mentioned above and would allow others to use it for a fee. The City Attorney has embarked upon the \$500.00 process of getting the City certified by the Public Service Commission. He also stated that some municipalities use these for revenue streams because they make money and pay for themselves. We need the green light to hire a consultant to work on writing a proposal.

Chairman Barr questioned how much the study will cost.

Mayor Wescott replied that he is unsure being this is such a unique area, but he will look into it and get back to the Committee with amounts when he gets them.

Ald. Rackow stated that other communities have been doing this.

Mayor Wescott replied that he has not had the opportunity to check into that yet, but he is intending on doing so. He also stated that since everything is getting connected, we need to stay in that connection. This type of network is going to be as critical for how we do business and how we live and work in this global world in the next five years as the telephone and electric lights are today. He stated he envisions that in the future, this network would connect the schools and the County facilities.

Ald. Rackow commented that the proposals to get fiber optic cable from Charter Communications just from the nodes is suspicious. If a consultant is hired he would be able to tell us whether the quotes are within reason.

Motion made by Ald. Nealis, seconded by Chairman Barr to approve the pursuing of a consultant to conduct a telecommunications study.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #3-CONSIDERATION OF CLAIM - DIANE SPARE

Comptroller-Treasurer stated that the letter from Sentry recommended denying the claim.

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Ald. Phillips to deny the consideration of claim for Ms. Spare.

Ald. Rackow stated even though this may appear unfair we are doing what our insurance recommends and by doing this, it now allows the claimant to take the next step.

Ald. Seiser questioned what the next step was.

City Attorney Molepske stated they then have six months to file a claim in small claims court.

Ald. Seiser questioned if any claim is ever paid and what we pay Sentry Insurance.

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice replied that when a claim is paid you will not see it. It is just paid and does not go to Committee.

He also stated that Sentry is paid \$160,000 per year.

City Attorney Molepske stated that the law is set up to protect the City.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #4-TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice stated that 2.5 million dollars was borrowed for building a new City Hall and for Public Works projects and the report shows that we gained 669,000 in interest earnings. We had 3.1 million available and we had expenditures of 1.8 million based on various projects that are listed in the report, we have 1.3 million left. The reason this is coming up now is that we have bills to pay to the State and the investments that the money was put in are now maturing. We are asking for authorization to move this money from fund 408 to fund 406, which is the Hwy 10 Project. The Water Department will be paying a portion of the bill.

Motion made by Ald. Pazdernik, seconded by Ald. Phillips to approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,350,000 from fund 408 to fund 406.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #5-COMMUNITY BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Director Gardner stated that as part of the Smart Growth Plan for the City, we are going to look at neighborhoods and special areas, downtown being one of them, and retaining someone who would be involved in looking at the status of the downtown and other related areas for vacancies and parking issues. We would like to retain someone using the grant to hire someone to take a look at the problems in a more comprehensive way. The focus will be in the downtown area.

Chairman Barr questioned whether \$15,000 would cover it.

Director Gardner stated that \$15,000 would be the local match, we will be applying through Madison for a grant. If that would not go through, it would not be a local match.

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Chairman Barr to approve the application process of the Community Based Economic Development Grant.

Ald. Kedrowski asked about the Business 51 corridor that seems to be hurting.

Director Gardner stated that is another area we will need to look at for the question of the impact of growth. There are a lot of building vacancies that are absentee owned so they do not have the interest in the community that others do, so these would also be areas that need to be looked at.

Ald. Kedrowski commented that if this is going to tie into the Smart Growth we should have a comprehensive city-wide plan to deal with commercial properties and not just focusing on one area.

Director Gardner agreed stating that we are going to have to do it in a comprehensive point of view, which is why the Mayor suggested that other communities get together and do it comprehensively rather than having numerous of them.

Mayor Wescott stated that the money that we are applying for is only for downtown applications.

Director Gardner stated that it can be focused to an economic area and downtown is one area that we want to focus on, but not saying that we **wouldn't want to do another one at a later date for another area.**

Ald. Sevenich thanked John Gardner for his work on this project.

Mayor Wescott stated that the question is what the roll of the government is in this situation. The government cannot make the owner of the buildings accept the offers they have received.

Ald. Sevenich stated that the general public does not know what is going on and this will help them understand.

Mayor Wescott commented that we are doing more than other communities.

Ald. Nealis stated that the private sector will work itself out, sometimes it just takes lowering the price of the properties to get it to sell.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #6-APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Ald. Phillips to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$894,248.49.

The claims were discussed.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #7-ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES 19.85(1)(e) FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATING THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY (APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES)

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Ald. Phillips to adjourn into closed session at 7:37 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Barr, Ald. Rackow, Phillips, Nealis, and Pazdernik

Nays: None Motion carried.

Back to Top

ITEM #8-RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION-POSSIBLE ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Ald. Phillips, seconded by Ald. Pazdernik to reconvene into open session at 8:50 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Barr, Ald. Rackow, Phillips, Nealis, and Pazdernik

Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion made by Ald. Rackow, seconded by Ald. Pazdernik to approve the purchase of the Johnson property located at 2432 Bush Street in the amount of \$76,500 and that the City staff be authorized to negotiate for the Kulas property at 100 Bukolt Avenue.

Ayes: All Nays: None Abstain: Ald. Nealis Motion carried.

(Ald. Nealis stated he would abstain on the Johnson property and would vote to approve the Kulas property portion of the motion)

Back to Top

Adjournment at 8:55 P.M.

The meeting minutes reproduced on this website are derived from the computer files used to produce the official minutes for the City of Stevens Point, but are unofficial. The minutes on this web site cannot be certified under s. 889.08, Wis. Stats., and cannot be considered prima facie evidence under s. 889.04, Wis. Stats. Certain tables, maps, and other documents that are a part of the official minutes are not included in the files reproduced on this website. Please consult the printed minutes, available in the City Clerk's Office, for the official text. The decisions made by City of Stevens Point boards, committees, and commissions (other than the Police & Fire Commission) are advisory only and are not binding on the city until affirmed at a meeting of the Common Council. Some of the minutes on this web site might not be approved by the Common Council as of today.

