Personnel & Finance Committee

November 8, 2021

Present: Committee Members Clausen and Sovinski; Council Members Scott and Fleck; Mayor Hazel; Auditor Strawn; Julie Vogel, Mike Sudman, Joe Wolfe, Wes Harris, Tom Wale, Doug Wolters, Mike Mertz, Aaron Siefring, Jason Andrews; Vince Barnhart and Tom Hitchcock.

Committee Chairman Clausen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm for review of the 2022 Budget.

Police Chief Wale was present to explain the Police Department Capital expense requests and answer questions posed by Council members. Chief Wale explained man of the items listed are for “updating and just wore out”. Chief Wale explained items that needed to be added additionally like laptops in cars and bodycams are essentials. CM Scott agreed in the instance of bodycams feeling “they are the best insurance policy”. Auditor Strawn asked if grant money is available for some of these items and Chief Wale said no. CM Sovinski asked about the military items. Chief Wale said the department is using some of the items and some they have used and no longer and have sold. SSD Hitchcock sales has been around $100,000.

Fire Chief Wolters was present to explain the Fire Department Capital expense requests and answer questions posed by Council members. He went down items and they were to replace and update tools, hoses, etc. New truck to replace old ambulance and used for inspections and other duties as needed.

Joe Wolfe, Public Works Superintendent, was present to explain the Public Works Department, Parks Department and Stormwater capital requests and answer questions posed by Council members. Wolfe introduced his assistant Wes Harris. Wolfe stated a payment for a 2019 street sweeper is included. Also a one-ton truck with a plow to replace an old truck that was a “hand me down from electric”. CM Sovinski asked age of truck and Wolfe said it is a 2007. Wolfe spoke about replacing a couple roofs in parks on Westview restroom and press box. Storm water items were discussed and Harris spoke about the purchase of midsize excavator versus renting one for deeper sewers. CM Sovinski asked about current backhoe depths for digging and Harris explained they just cannot reach beyond 12-13 feet and city has lines deeper than this.

Julie Vogel, Customer Accounts Supervisor, was present to explain the Customer Accounts capital requests and answer questions posed by Council members.

Mike Mertz, Electric Distribution Superintendent, was present to explain the Electric Distribution Capital requests and answer questions posed by Council members. Mertz introduced Aaron Siefring, his assistant. Mertz went through items needed by the department and mentioned poles, wire, lighting, etc. Mertz mentioned a new truck that will be more “compact” for service equipment in alleys.

Mike Sudman, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, was present to explain the Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution Capital requests and answer questions posed by Council members. He walked council and committee down each item listed.

Jason Andrews, Wastewater Assistant Superintendent, was present to explain the Wastewater Capital requests and answer questions posed by Council members. Andrews walked council and committee down each item listed.

Discussion continued with further review of the 2022 budget requests labeled “potential projects” and not in budget. Mayor Hazel mentioned this was just to bring the awareness these items might be added later.

Chairman Clausen adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Submitted by Vincent J. Barnhart, Clerk of Council