

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 10, 2005
Committee Room #2

PRESENT: Aids. Bruderle-Baran, Casey, Grimm, Herzog, Jenkins, Maher, Purins, Stepaniak – 8

ALSO PRESENT: Ald. Birschel; Ald. Treis; A. Kesner, City Atty.; B. Aldana, Asst. City Atty.; R. Braier, Finance Dir.; B. Jacobsen, Admin. Intern; Chief D. Redman, Fire; Chief B. Weber, Police; W. Ramcheck, Pub. Works Prog. Analyst; R. Stingl, Fleet, Traffic & Maint. Supt.; C. Ledesma, City Clerk; J. Bembenek, Purchasing Mgr.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran as Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Bid for the City of Wauwatosa official newspaper

Ms. Ledesma said that as required by state statute, she advertised for bids for the official newspaper for the city's legal publications. The bids were opened on May 3rd. The only bid received was from Community Newspapers, Inc. She recommended awarding the bid.

Moved by Ald. Jenkins, seconded by Ald. Stepaniak, to recommend approval to award the bid for the city's official newspaper to Community Newspapers, Inc. – 8

Ordinance amending code Section 2.59 to add an additional Deputy Chief and delete the position of Fire Marshal

The committee reviewed the ordinance amending code Section 2.59 which adds an additional Deputy Chief and deletes the position of Fire Marshal. This restructuring will provide key benefits including: 1) increasing the total number of work hours dedicated to fire prevention activities, 2) recovering fire investigation expertise lost through the death of one code specialist and retirement of the fire marshal, 3) increasing the number of staff available for incident command support functions from five to six employees, 4) providing for more effective department management by having a more senior officer available during normal business hours, 5) lowering the cost for the value of operational improvements, and 6) reducing the overtime/fill pay and reducing the use of captains acting as shift commanders.

Moved by Ald. Grimm, seconded by Ald. Herzog to recommend adoption of the ordinance amending code Section 2.59 adding an additional Deputy Chief and deleting the position of Fire Marshal – 8

Immediate hire of School Resource Officer in the police department

Chief Weber said that during the 2005 budget process the Council authorized the police department to hire an additional police officer to serve as a school resource officer. The Council made adjustments to the police budget that allowed for scheduling this position to start in July of 2005. The Council stated at the time that they would consider an earlier start date if funds became available. Through an internal testing and interview process an officer has been selected for the position. The department has also begun meeting with school officials to discuss options for making this program as beneficial as possible. During this process they identified a problem with the July 1st hiring date. If an officer is not hired until July, the program will not be in place by the start of

the fall semester. The delay is a result of the training needs for one resource officer, as well as the recruit officer that will ultimately replace a vacated position within the department. He added that one of the police officers is continuing his call up in the U.S. Air Force aiding with the war effort in Iraq. The department is proposing to use two months of his scheduled, but unused wage and fringe benefit amounts and apply it to the requested early hiring. If this proposal is approved, there will be no additional fiscal impact for the city.

Ald. Stepaniak asked why there would not be sufficient time to have the school resource officer start on July 1st. Chief Weber said replacing the officer going into the school resource officer position would cause a shortage on the street. The money would go to hiring another officer. Ald. Stepaniak asked about parking revenues and the delay in filling the parking checker position. Chief Weber said the city received hundreds of applicants for that position, but it took months to publish, test and hire someone. The former person in the position gave only two weeks notice that she was retiring. He said the parking revenues are significantly lower because of the delay in hiring and because the other parking checker is off on disability. Right now the patrol officers are doing parking violations, but they are unable to do timed parking checks, which involve marking tires and returning later to check whether the vehicle is still there.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran recalled that during the 2005 budget process it was discussed that if the money was available from overtime; the date for hiring could be pushed up. She requested information on how payment for the early hire would come out of overtime. Chief Weber said the overtime payoff, at this time, is \$27,000 more than it was last year at the same time.

Moved by Ald. Stepaniak, seconded by Ald. Casey to hold this item for further information on police department overtime levels and schedule a special Budget and Finance meeting before the Common Council meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 --

Mr. Braier said the parking revenue will be down this year, but it is too early to say what the big picture will be.

Ald. Grimm felt Chief Weber had given good reasons for moving the hiring date up and it was only for one month. Aids. Jenkins and Casey expressed support, but requested more information on the status of police department overtime.

Ald. Purins asked if this discussion would be taking place if the school resource officer was being hired on July 1st. He said it appears that requirements are being placed on the department only because the request is to move the hiring date up one month.

Ald. Stepaniak said the thrust of asking that the item be held is to take a closer look at the parking revenue and the amount of overtime. If the parking revenues are down \$100,000 and overtime is up \$50,000 that creates a significant shortfall. He would like to see the numbers before the next Common Council meeting.

Vote on the motion was Ayes: 8

Additional cost of previously purchased fire vehicle

Mr. Bembenek said they ordered a 2005 Ford Explorer from Ewald's Hartford Lincoln Mercury. They received a call from Ewald's in which they were told that Ewald's had made a mistake and charged the city for a two-wheel drive vehicle instead of the four-wheel drive vehicle that was delivered.

Moved by Ald. Maher, seconded by Ald. Purins to recommend approval to pay the additional cost of an already purchased vehicle in the amount \$1,907 – 8

Simplified Rate Case Application filed with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) to increase water revenues

Mr. Wojcehowicz said the last time the city increased water rates was in 1995. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has come up with the Simplified Rate Case Application which is an inflationary type increase that helps utilities maintain rate continuity so that customers benefit from smaller, more frequent rate increases. They would like to file a Simplified Rate Case Application with the PSC in order to increase water revenues. In 2003, the water utility last petitioned the Common Council to accept the PSC's full rate case review recommendation that increased water rates. He said the utility needs to increase water rates to provide adequate coverage for their debt. If the utility doesn't increase water rates, they will be unable to obtain adequate bonding to fund capital improvements to the water system. An anticipated 3% rate increase will generate \$56,416 in revenue for the utility during 2005 and they estimate that the simplified rate increase will generate an additional \$169,247 during the 2006 fiscal year. The average residential customer's water bill will increase \$1.97 per quarter, going from \$64.50 to \$66.47 per quarter. The 2006 average annual increase for a residential customer would be \$7.88. He recommended filing the Simplified Rate Case Application with the PSC and implementation of the PSC rate review.

Ald. Maher said he had concerns about water consumption projections. He requested a justification for the rate increase. Mr. Wojcehowicz said there are a number of factors that prompt the need for a rate increase: 1) an increase in the rent the city charges for their office space in city hall, 2) the loss of big industrial usage like Western Industries and Kohl's/Roundy's and portions of Briggs and Stratton, and 3) a decrease in the city's population. Ald. Maher said he would like to see a better justification as well as a spreadsheet. He said all of this should have been addressed in the budget process.

Moved by Ald. Maher, seconded by Ald. Purins to hold this item for three weeks for documentation on reasons for a water utility rate increase --

Mr. Braier handed out information on the pumpage report. He said the report shows a decrease in the number of gallons the city needs to maintain a certain rate of usage for bond coverage. He anticipated that the utility will have to create a bond issue. If rates are not increased, the utility will not have enough money to support the capital projects next year. With a rate increase, they will be able to borrow approximately \$3,955,256, move ahead with plans and have a bond issue cover capital projects. He said the rate increase can't wait until next year. Mr. Wojcehowicz added that it takes 45 days after PSC approval to implement the rate increase and that is too much money to lose.

Ald. Grimm asked how many times the rates have been increased. Mr. Wojcehowicz said there was no increase in 2004. There was a PSC increase in 2003 of 10%; however, the last time the City of Wauwatosa went to the PSC for a rate increase was in 1995. Ald. Herzog asked if there was any chance that the PSC would deny the request. Mr. Wojcehowicz said they have already explored that possibility and the PSC indicated that Wauwatosa would qualify.

Ald. Herzog asked about union contracts and wage increases. Mr. Wojcehowicz said their union is still in arbitration and discussing a 3% wage increase. Ald. Herzog said it looks like the numbers justify the 3% rate increase and he didn't see any reason to hold the item.

Ald. Maher said he remained very skeptical of the water consumption forecast in light of the assumption that water usage was going to be at the same level as last year. He expressed concern that the estimates may be wrong; however, he withdrew his motion to hold. Ald. Purins withdrew his second to that motion and added that not having participated in the 2005 budget process; he would like to review the documents pertaining to this issue.

Moved by Ald. Stepaniak, seconded by Ald. Jenkins to recommend approval for the water utility to file a Simplified Rate Case Application with the PSC to increase water utility revenues – 8

Vouchers

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FOR</u>
E. Krueger	\$26.28	Health – 4/22/05 – Oconomowoc Communicable Diseases Spring Seminar 2005
M. Meske	\$28.72	Health – 4/22/05 – Oconomowoc Communicable Diseases Spring Seminar 2005
S. Javoroski	\$29.24	Health – 4/22/05 – Oconomowoc Communicable Diseases Spring Seminar 2005
M. Swanson	\$29.02	Health – 4/22/05 – Oconomowoc Communicable Diseases Spring Seminar 2005
D. Schindler	\$29.24	Health – 4/22/05 – Oconomowoc Communicable Diseases Spring Seminar 2005
M. Meske	\$29.09	Health – 4/21/05 – Wisconsin Dells WALHDAB – Spring Meeting
R. Burnett	\$26.39	Police – 4/4-4/6/05 – WCTC Patrol In-Service Training
B. Beckman	\$32.46	Police – 4/25-4/28/05 – MATC Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Drugs that Impair Driving
L. Vetter	\$30.93	Police – 4/25-4/28/05 – MATC Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Drugs that Impair Driving
T. Engelken	\$30.07	Police – 4/25-4/28/05 - MATC Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Drugs that Impair Driving
M. Meske	\$218.67	Health – 4/14/05 – Milwaukee Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines
J. McGuire	\$140.00	Health – 4/26-4/28/05 – Wisconsin Rapids 8 th Annual PHN Conf. Planning Comm. Mtg.
J. McGuire	\$65.20	Health – 4/28/05 – Madison Communicable Diseases Spring Seminar 2005

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FOR</u>
B. Aldana	\$157.14	Attorney – 4/19-4/20/05 – Menasha CVMIC Training
F. Carsky	\$125.00	Police – 4/28-4/29/05 – Milwaukee Hot Topics in the Invest. & Prosecution of Child Abuse
W. Rice	\$1,163.29	Fire – 4/12-4/15/05 – Indianapolis,Ind. Fire Department Instructors Conference
J. Beix	\$102.76	Health – 4/21/05 – Wisconsin Dells WAHLDAB – Spring Meeting
J. Beix	\$29.35	Health – 4/22/05 – Oconomowoc Communicable Diseases Spring Seminar 2005
G. Garbrish	\$26.80	Police – 5/2-5/4/05 – Germantown Highway Drug Investigations Class
T. Engelken	\$25.78	Police – 5/2-5/4/05 – Germantown Highway Drug Investigations Class

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Purins that the vouchers be allowed and paid – 8

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

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