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BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Committee Room #2

PRESENT: Alds. Bruderle-Baran, Grimm, Herzog, Jenkins, Maher, Stepaniak – 6

EXCUSED: Alds. Casey, Purins

ALSO PRESENT: T. Wontorek, City Admin.; A. Kesner, City Atty.; B. Aldana, Asst. City Atty.; R. Braier, Finance Dir.; W. Wehrley, City Eng.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Review of special assessment for alley improvement, Pilgrim Child Development Center, 7011 W. Center Street

Mr. Wehrley said that Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church has requested that the committee review their alley assessment. Mr. Kesner said this issue came before the Board of Public Works (BPW). The board felt that this was a policy issue that needed to be dealt with on the committee level.

Norman Jensen, 6550 Hillcrest Drive, said that as stated in their letter of September 1, 2005, they are a church and as a church they own the property. Churches by definition are assessed as unit-1 which is the same as residential. The church daycare on this property is a school as well with a curriculum based on state standards. Schools are under the unit-1 classification as well. They feel the daycare should be treated as a school that is part of a church.

Mr. Wehrley said this is the first time they have dealt with a situation where the daycare is part of the church, but it is on a property that is not connected with the church.

Ald. Maher said it was his belief that the city needs to be consistent with taxing assessment policies. Mr. Braier said that this property does not pay real estate taxes. Ald. Stepaniak observed that if this were any other secular day care it would be assessed the same. Mr. Jensen said the church owns the property and pays all of the day care's expenses; however, they are running at a loss right now. Mr. Kesner reiterated that this is a unique property in that the daycare is not on the parcel where the church is located.

Ald. Stepaniak asked if the day care was a separate 501(c)(3). Mr. Jensen said the church is a 501(c)(3) and the daycare and other activities are under that umbrella.

Mr. Kesner said it wouldn't be unusual for this property to be treated separately for assessment purposes. Ald. Stepaniak asked what the impact would be on adjacent property owners if the decision was made for Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Mr. Wehrley said Pilgrim Lutheran's reduction would be split among the other property owners. Ald. Stepaniak noted that would be a hefty increase for the pool of remaining owners.

Ald. Herzog said this is a serious issue especially if the cost is going pushed off on the neighbors. He suggested that the neighbors be notified of the situation. He suggested that the matter be held for 3 weeks in order to notify the other properties that are affected.

Moved by Ald. Herzog, seconded by Ald. Jenkins to hold this item for 3 weeks in order to notify the other properties that are affected --

Ald. Jenkins suggested that staff look at parallels with similar situations in other parts of the country.

Ald. Maher said he was concerned about setting a precedent. Especially if the committee holds the item for 3 weeks and then decides that child development centers should be treated differently.

Ald. Grimm asked if future owners would have access to the alley. Mr. Kesner said they should because it is a public road. Mr. Jensen said they have no access to the alley. Ald. Stepaniak said he visited the property and observed that there is a fence along the alley that has a playground on one side and no ingress or egress into the day care parking lot. He noticed; however, that the day care did store their garbage carts in the alley.

Vote on the Motion was Ayes: 5, Noes: 1(Maher)

Vouchers

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FOR</u>
J. Beix	\$2,217.86	Health – 8/9-8/17/05 – Atlanta, GA 2 Epidemiologic Computing Courses
C. Chabron	\$381.00	Assessor – 8/30-9/02/05 – La Crosse 2005 Municipal Assessors Institute
R. Tuff	\$369.25	Assessor – 8/30-9/02/05 – La Crosse 2005 Municipal Assessors Institute
C. Ledesma	\$280.77	City Clerk – 8/17-8/19/05 – Appleton WMCA State Conference
W. Ramcheck	\$1,023.00	Pub. Works – 8/28-8/31/05 – Minneapolis, MN National Recycling Coalition
J. McGuire	\$211.34	Health – 8/29-8/30/05 – Stevens Point 8 th Annual Public Health Nursing
K. Isleb	\$430.81	Assessor – 8/29-9/01/05 – La Crosse 2005 Municipal Assessors Institute
N. Kreuser	\$408.79	Health – 8/7-8/11/05 – Chapel Hill, NC Management Academy of Public Health Member Site
L. Nielsen	\$46.17	Health – 9/7-9/9/05 – Zion, IL MARPHLI Meeting
J. Wojcehowicz	\$521.00	Water – 9/13-9/16/05 – La Crosse Wisconsin Water Assoc. Conference

Moved by Ald. Grimm, seconded by Ald. Maher that the vouchers be allowed and paid – 6

Ald. Herzog referred to the voucher for \$2,217.86 and asked what the policy was when an employee attends two seminars 3 days apart. He asked if it was policy to allow employees to stay over for those three days. Mr. Braier said that the employee involved was not reimbursed by the city for any expenses he incurred during those three days. He noted that the money for the seminars was coming from the bio-terrorism consortium grant funds. Ald. Herzog suggested that there be a less expensive way to set up seminars and travel.

Ald. Grimm thought that people going to conferences, seminars and training should be required to present a report on what they did.

Moved by Ald. Grimm, seconded by Ald. Herzog that staff look into why the city does not require a travel report anymore --

Ald. Stepaniak said he didn't think that employees should be required to write report for something that is administrative. Ald. Jenkins said he could not support having reports presented before the committee as part of the agenda.

Vote on the motion was Ayes: 4, Noes: 2 (Stepaniak, Maher)

Claim of Dorothy Hanauer, 13625 W. Burleigh Road, Brookfield

Status report from the City Attorney on threatened litigation between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and its member communities

Moved by Ald. Stepaniak, seconded by Ald. Maher to convene into closed session per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(g): Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, and may reconvene into open session – 6

The committee convened into closed session at 7:39 P.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

svh