



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE
WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN 53213
Telephone: (414) 479-8917
Fax: (414) 479-8989
Web Site: www.wauwatosa.net

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Committee Room #2

PRESENT: Alds. Ewerdt, Donegan, Jay, Walsh, Organ, Berdan – 6

EXCUSED: Ald. Krol

ALSO PRESENT: J. Archambo, City Admin.; A. Kesner, City Atty.; R. Braier, Finance Dir.;
N. Welch, Comm. Dev. Dir.

Ald. Ewerdt as Chair called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

Spending plan for the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant funds

The committee reviewed a memo from the Community Development Director regarding a spending plan for the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) funds.

Ms. Welch said as an entitlement community, the city will be receiving \$220,000 of EECBG funds to be utilized for energy efficient projects. The plan for these funds needs to be submitted by June 25, 2009.

A list of potential projects was compiled and the one chosen was for a very visual project which would also reduce the burden on taxpayers. The key projects being recommended are the installation of solar panels on the public works building in the amount of \$190,000 and the funding of a portion of the proposed City Hall facility plan that will increase energy efficiency through a better layout of offices and fixtures in the amount of \$30,000.

Ald. Donegan asked which of the potential projects would produce the most savings to the city. Ms. Welch said due to time constraints a direct comparison was not done. She said since grant funds were being used the solar panels project was chosen as it is a very visual and educational project to the community. Ms. Welch noted that the public works building is a large roof with no obstructions and the solar panels would work well.

Ald. Berdan asked about the ongoing maintenance and lifetime expectancy of the solar panels and if it would be a burden to the city down the road. Ms. Welch said that there would be no restructuring needed to support the panels. She said the panels would need to be cleaned when they get dirty and the wiring would need to be checked occasionally. Mr. Archambo thought the panels might start to lose their efficiency after 20 or more years.

Ald. Ewerdt asked if alternative fuels had been explored at all. He said he has mentioned this idea previously. Mr. Archambo said the biggest obstacle is the location of ethanol. An additional onsite service station would have to be added. Ald. Ewerdt felt it would be a good use of these funds due to the number of vehicles the city has in its fleet.

Ms. Welch said that there are many good projects the funding could be used for, but noted there are only 16 days remaining to submit documentation. She said that a project like E85 could be looked at down the road.

Ald. Donegan asked if the Energy Committee had made a recommendation on the use of these funds. Ms. Welch said that there were grant limitations including a maximum of 20% of the funds to be used to provide sub-grants to non-governmental organizations. One of the Energy Committee's suggestions of an energy audit for homemakers was too small to have any real impact, but something worth pursuing in the future.

Moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Organ
to recommend approval of the proposed use of the
2009 EECBG funds - -

Ald. Walsh asked for the timeline of the panels. Ms. Welch said if approved an RFP could be made shortly. If the timing is bad and the money comes in November, they may hold off on installation due to the weather.

Ald. Walsh asked if there is a warranty on the panels. Ms. Welch said she didn't have that information with her, but she would get it to the committee.

The committee discussed the actual cost savings and based on an estimate provided, the committee felt the payback was a very long time. The committee felt it is a pretty low return on cost savings. Ms. Welch said that without the use of grant funds it isn't a reasonable payback.

Mr. Archambo explained to the committee on the cost savings. He said the savings is based on how much energy is made which is then sold back to the utility company. It goes as an offset on how much energy is used.

Ald. Ewerdt asked if this item could be held for further information regarding the warranty and energy savings. Mr. Archambo reported that a special Budget and Finance Meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2009 and this item could be added to the agenda.

Moved by Ald. Donegan to amend his motion,
seconded by Ald. Organ to hold this item - 6

Draft Brownfields Assessment Grant work plan

The committee reviewed a memo from the Community Development Director regarding approval of a draft work plan for implementing Brownfields Assessment Grant.

Ms. Welch reported that this grant is a response to an application made last summer to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Ms. Welch said the plan proposes to identify properties that are potentially contaminated, set priorities, obtain the property owner's permission, conduct the assessment, and prepare reports. The funds will be used to hire a consultant to conduct the assessments. Ms. Welch said that once you have been awarded this grant, it makes it easier to then receive funds for the remediation.

Ald. Organ inquired about the fiscal impact. Ms. Welch reported that there is a local match requirement that will be fulfilled via in-kind services from existing City staff. She said it is not a direct match, that the City cost would be about 10%.

Harris Byers, Symbiont, said he wrote the grant application and explained how this grant funding got bundled into the stimulus package. He said when the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) came out, a substantial portion of the funds went to the EPA for assessment and remediation work. He noted that only two municipalities in Wisconsin were awarded this grant and that this opens the door to additional assessment and clean-up funding.

Moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Organ
to recommend approval of the proposed use of
2009 EECBG funds with final approval given by
the Common Council – Ayes: 6

Memo from the Asst. City Attorney regarding the claim of Richard Meeusen

The City Attorney discussed the claim with the committee. He said there is no proof that the snow plow hit the vehicle. The plow driver did not notice that the plow hit anything and there were no witnesses.

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Jay
to recommend denial of the claim by Richard Meeusen
in the amount of \$5,706.46 - Ayes: 6

Memo from the Asst. City Attorney regarding the claim of Meghan Deutsch

The City Attorney discussed the claim with the committee. The City discovered a water main break on Wells Street on April 13, 2009 and posted barricades warning of possible hazards. The claimant has not demonstrated that the City was negligent.

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Jay
to recommend denial of the claim by Meghan Deutsch
in the amount of \$1,928.63 - Ayes: 6

Vouchers

Name	Dept.	Reason and location	Date	Amount
Barry Weber	Police	FBINAA - WI Chapter Annual Training - Minocqua	05/27 - 05/29	67.00
Mark Meske	Health	Midwest Regional Agroterrorism Workshop - Brookfield	5/28 - 05/29/09	34.30
Michael Loy	Human Resources	State & Local Government Benefits Association National Meeting - Denver, CO	04/26 - 04/29/09	1,320.40
Michael Hahn	Water	WI DNR Certification - State Fair Park	5/6/09	25.00
Gary Gabrish	Police	Midwest Tactical Officer's Association Training Seminar - Camp Douglas, WI	05/26 - 05/29/09	97.15

Moved by Ald. Organ, seconded by Ald. Berdan
that the vouchers be allowed and paid - Ayes: 6

Ald. Jay asked how much is budgeted for city travel expenses and if a breakdown were available. The City Attorney noted that this since this item was not on the agenda for discussion, it would need to be a separate agenda item at a later date. The committee asked that it be added to the agenda in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

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