



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES • FEBRUARY 25, 2014

Regular Meeting**Committee Room #2****8:00 PM**

7725 West North Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Peter Donegan	Alderman	Present	
Craig Wilson	Alderman	Excused	
John Dubinski	Alderman	Present	
Tim Hanson	Alderman	Present	8:30 PM
Jill Organ	Alderwoman	Present	8:30 PM
Joel Tilleson	Alderman	Present	
Brian Ewerdt	Alderman	Present	
Donald Birschel	Alderman	Present	
Alan Kesner	City Attorney	Present	
James Archambo	City Administrator	Present	
John Ruggini	Finance Director	Present	
Greg Gilsinger	CVMIC Representative	Present	
George M. Schimmel	Outside Counsel	Present	
Mike DeMoss	CVMIC	Present	
Anthony Brown	Asst. to Administrator	Present	

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m.

In the absence of the Chair, a motion was made by Ald. Tilleson, seconded by Ald. Donegan, nominating Ald. Ewerdt as Acting Chair - Ayes: 5

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ITEMS

* Discussion of worker's compensation subrogation in the matter of Philip J. Ferguson, et al. v. Crane Carrier Company, et al., Milwaukee County Case No. 11-CV-15784

The City Attorney suggested that the Committee go into closed session, so that he could provide a status and strategy update to the Committee regarding the item.

Moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Birschel to convene into closed session per Wisconsin Statutes 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, may reconvene into open session - Ayes: 5

Closed session convened at 8:23 p.m.

Ald. Organ and Ald. Hanson arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Open session reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

1. Memo from the Water Superintendent requesting approval of a cooperative agreement for water main rehabilitation with the Marshfield Water Utility

The Committee reviewed a memo from the Water Superintendent requesting approval of a cooperative agreement for water main rehabilitation with the Marshfield Water Utility.

Mr. Wojcehowicz explained that the cooperative agreement will reduce engineering service fees, lower contractor mobilization costs, and create a competitive bidding advantage by combining both municipal water main rehabilitation projects. After signing this cooperative agreement, Wauwatosa and Marshfield will pursue joint bids for water main rehabilitation services.

Moved by Ald. Tilleson, seconded by Ald. Dubinski
to recommend approval of a cooperative agreement
for water main rehabilitation with the Marshfield Water
Utility - Ayes: 7

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/4/2014 7:30 PM
TO:	Common Council	
MOVER:	Joel Tilleson, Alderman	
SECONDER:	John Dubinski, Alderman	
AYES:	Donegan, Dubinski, Hanson, Organ, Tilleson, Ewerdt, Birschel	
EXCUSED:	Wilson	

2. Memo from the City Administrator regarding Common Council phone stipend eligibility

The Committee reviewed a memo from the City Administrator regarding Common Council phone stipend eligibility.

Mr. Archambo explained that the communication stipend stems back to the days when more employees had pagers and City-issued phones.

If an employee's responsibilities make it crucial that they are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the employee has the choice of requesting a City-issued wireless telecommunication device or utilizing a personal wireless telecommunication device with access to a stipend. This is intended to reimburse employees for the use of their personal equipment and minutes for City business only. The City currently offers several levels of phone stipend ranging from \$10 to \$50 per month.

Mr. Kesner explained that statute inhibits elected officials from increasing their salary in the middle of their term. It is not clear whether phone stipends would be considered salary, but he suggested that any change should be effective as of the next election cycle for each aldermanic seat. Those up for re-election would receive the change as of April and others would have to wait two years for the stipend to go into effect.

Ald. Hanson remarked that he brought this item to Mr. Archambo's attention. He explained that it is not the wireless internet, but the data plan that increases out-of-pocket cost. He suggested purchasing iPads with 4G capabilities in the future, so that Alders may use the equipment on the go.

Ald. Dubinski agreed that updated technology would help alders provide quicker responses to constituent concerns. The current equipment is efficient, but updated technology would speed up the process.

Responding to a question, Mr. Archambo explained that an employee must be available for contact at any time to be eligible for a phone stipend.

Mr. Kesner explained that the phone stipend amount depends on the level of communication required.

Ald. Ewerdt agreed that the wifi-only iPads limit the functionality of the equipment.

Ald. Organ asked why this cost is not considered part of the current aldermanic monthly stipend.

Ald. Ewerdt remarked that the aldermanic stipend has not been increased for many years and does not include the increased costs of technology.

Ald. Tilleson agreed that the Wauwatosa aldermanic stipend is considerably lower than the aldermanic salaries of surrounding municipalities. He questioned whether a phone stipend would impact open records requests in the future and if aldermen would have to provide personal phone records if a personal device was used for City business. He voiced support of the phone stipend and remarked that he would support a motion recommending approval.

Mr. Kesner replied that open records requests and litigation would differ, but explained that personal records of the aldermen would not be subject to regular open records requests.

Ald. Donegan opined that the current aldermanic stipend does not include out-of-pocket expenses. He agreed that aldermen should have access to the materials at anytime.

Moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Hanson
to recommend approval of a phone stipend for
Council members at level three, or \$40 per month, effective after the next
re-election of each aldermanic seat - Ayes: 7

Responding to a question, Mr. Kesner stated that the Mayor has the \$50 level phone stipend reimbursement.

Ald. Organ asked where the funds for these stipends would come from.

Mr. Ruggini suggested that a fund transfer could move funds from the Professional Services account in the Council budget to a separate line item for phone stipends.

Ald. Organ opined that the positives of a phone stipend outweigh the concerns in her mind. Council members should be able to access the data at anytime and must have access to wireless internet to perform their job.

Responding to a question, Mr. Ruggini explained that the phone stipend would be pre-tax.

Ald. Ewerdt remarked that four of the current Committee members are up for re-election and all of them support this item. He noted that this change in policy will help aldermen perform their jobs in the future.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/4/2014 7:30 PM
TO:	Common Council	
MOVER:	Peter Donegan, Alderman	
SECONDER:	Tim Hanson, Alderman	
AYES:	Donegan, Dubinski, Hanson, Organ, Tilleson, Ewerdt, Birschel	
EXCUSED:	Wilson	

3. Vouchers

Moved by Ald. Hanson, seconded by Ald. Birschel
that each and every voucher be allowed and paid - Ayes: 6
Present: 1 (Donegan)

RESULT:	APPROVED [6 TO 0]
MOVER:	Tim Hanson, Alderman
SECONDER:	Donald Birschel, Alderman
AYES:	Dubinski, Hanson, Organ, Tilleson, Ewerdt, Birschel
ABSTAIN:	Donegan
EXCUSED:	Wilson

4. * Discussion of worker's compensation subrogation in the matter of Philip J. Ferguson, et al. v. Crane Carrier Company, et al., Milwaukee County Case No. 11-CV-15784

This item was discussed in closed session at the beginning of the meeting. See page 1 of the minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, CMC, City Clerk