

CITY OF WAUWATOSA

MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER
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BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Committee Room #2

PRESENT: Ald. Bruderle-Baran, Casey, Grimm, Jenkins, Matthews, Stepaniak, Subotich – 7

EXCUSED: Ald. McCarthy

ALSO PRESENT: T. Wontorek, City Admin; A. Kesner, City Atty.; P. Coffaro, Asst. to Admin.; R. Braier, Compt./Treas.; Capt. J. Bozicevich, Police; W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; T. Tarantino, Utility Repair., Maint.; D. McCann, Pres. Firefighters Local 1923

Ald. Stepaniak as Chair called the meeting to order 8:42 p.m.

Evening rental of Civic Center club rooms

Mr. Wontorek said the committee acted in February to have a moratorium on renting out the Civic Center club rooms. At the time, there were three groups using those rooms on an ongoing basis. Those groups are still renting. He recommended sustaining the decision to eliminate evening rentals of the club rooms. He explained that it is difficult to provide staffing for the setup and supervision of the rooms and there are other rooms such as the lower auditorium that can be used during the day.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Jenkins to recommend approval of the elimination of evening Civic Center club room rental --

Ald. Grimm asked how many people or groups have requested renting those rooms since the moratorium. Mr. Wontorek said there haven't been any that he is aware of. Ald. Grimm expressed his concern that the location of the employee lounge in the room with the kitchen takes up space that people could use. He suggested limiting evening rentals to one evening per week; for example, one Wednesday per week for all groups. Mr. Wontorek explained that the problem really lies in being able to provide staffing to take care of those rooms.

Vote on the motion, was Ayes: 7, Noes: 1 (Grimm)

Recreation Department use of club rooms for T'ai Chi classes

Mr. Wontorek said the Recreation Department has been utilizing the club rooms during the day for approximately six months and would like to continue using them. He said they have not encountered any problems with the T'ai Chi classes. He said the class prefers the club rooms because they are quiet and it is easier to hold the activity upstairs away from noise and interruption.

Moved by Ald. Grimm, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend approval of the Recreation Department use of Civic Center club rooms during the day for T'ai Chi classes – 7

Graffiti removal from Harmony Bridge support and Honey Creek Bridge and adoption of new policy for graffiti removal

Capt. Bozicevich passed some pictures of graffiti strewn walls and bridges to the committee. He said that there are years when the police department spends very little on graffiti removal and then there are years like this one

when the department will spend five times as much. He said the city has an ordinance addressing the graffiti problem. There is a window in terms of the owner's responsibility to remove it within ten days. He said that if there is no money in the graffiti removal account, he needs to ask for authorization to spend additional funds. He recommended sandblasting the areas covered with graffiti and then putting on a coating which will make further sandblasting unnecessary. The coating will create a surface that can be easily cleaned. He said that merely painting the surface doesn't cover the graffiti completely. He stressed the importance of swift removal because if the graffiti remains, it is an invitation for more tagging. It doesn't happen very often, but there are areas that are hit hard. He said the police department has made a number of arrests and continues to investigate and arrest the perpetrators. They have also made it a point to audit all retail establishments that sell spray paint. They have found that a number of them have not used any measures to control the sale and accessibility of the paint. The sellers have been notified that they need to fix these problems. He said the department was attacking this problem effectively on both fronts. Their request is to approve \$6,500 for removal of graffiti in three places as well as sandblasting and coating. He also requested that when the department does find graffiti in a public place that they could remove it quickly and then come to the committee for funding approval.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran asked if there was any grant money available for graffiti removal. Mr. Coffaro said there is Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding available if the city qualifies. He said that he would look into applying to the Community Development Department for the funding for next year. Capt. Bozicevich said that usually there is \$1,000 in the account and that amount covers typical years; however, this year the cost is unusually high.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Jenkins to recommend approval if the transfer of \$6,500 from the Reserve for Contingencies for graffiti removal and to authorize the police department to immediately remove graffiti and then report to the committee for an allocation from the Reserve for Contingencies if the graffiti fund is already depleted --

Ald. Jenkins asked if the city has sandblasting equipment. Mr. Kappel responded that they do have a sandblaster and they were doing sandblasting up until 1996. The Public Works department was not able to respond very quickly to graffiti clean-up due to staffing considerations. They have since contracted out for the work.

Ald. Stepaniak asked if the extra funding would always need to come from the Reserve for Contingencies. Capt. Bozicevich said that they have found that there may be money in other accounts so there may be alternatives other than the Reserve for Contingencies.

Ald. Casey said he would support the motion. He appreciated the concern about wanting to remove graffiti within ten days. Lots of communities have struggled with this issue and it is important to get rid of the graffiti as soon as possible to make the areas unattractive to taggers. He mentioned that the City of Milwaukee has purchased two sandblasters. He suggested that the Community Service Corporation may be one of the entities that could do the removal. Mr. Kappel said he had looked into it and will continue looking at all the options.

Ald. Matthews asked if it was standard to sandblast and coat. Mr. Kappel said that is the most effective treatment. He reiterated that if the clear coating is put on, the graffiti can be easily removed. Ald. Grimm suggested that maybe a community organization like the Boy Scouts could help with the removal. He also suggested requiring the culprits when they are caught, to remove the graffiti themselves.

Ald. Stepaniak asked if taggers are asked to reimburse the cost to the city. Capt. Bozicevich said that out of 32 reports they were able to make 13 arrests. He said that most of the taggers are under the age of 15 and municipal court is not allowed to order reimbursement in those cases. He said they are looking at ways to cover these funds.

Don Birschel, 1225 N. 122nd Street, said that as an inspector for Milwaukee County, he has been inspecting culverts, bridges, and retaining walls. He has noticed an increase in graffiti in the area.

Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 7

Authorization for residents to print tax bills from the internet

Mr. Braier this idea came about as the city web site developed. He said the original plan was to put the tax amounts on the web site and then the idea came up that it would be nice if residents could print out their tax bill from the web site. He said the time that would be most prominent for this kind of service would be during the tax bill mailings and when people need to get copies of the tax bill for closings, etc. This access would enable the individual or the mortgage company to print the bills themselves. He pointed out that there would be a small savings in material, postage and labor and it would be a good service to the public. They found some money to cover the cost, but they are short approximately \$1,700 and they are asking that this be transferred from the Reserve for Contingencies. It would be a one-time expenditure.

Ald. Stepaniak asked if the contract vendor could get this service up and running for the next tax mailing. Mr. Coffaro responded that was possible if the request was approved right now.

Ald. Matthews expressed concern about privacy issues. Mr. Coffaro replied that the name and address only show when the printout is being displayed. He added that the printout display is two searches deep within the system.

Ald. Bruderle-Baran said she was and still is concerned about privacy; however, this service was a little different than the assessments. The name is not as readily available in this instance. She thought the benefits outweighed the privacy issues. She noted that this is a first step in the progression of e-government.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Casey to recommend authorization for residents to print-out the tax bill from the internet and to transfer \$1,700 from the reserve for contingencies for this purpose --

In response to a question from Ald. Grimm regarding legality, Mr. Kesner indicated that the city has assured some privacy by not making the information available via name search. This method is not required, but it is a privacy policy set by the Council. He indicated that the city would not be breaking any laws by allowing this service.

Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 7

Amendment to the bonding limit charter ordinance (for introduction)
Implementation of the 2003 Budget

Due to the need for Mr. Wontorek to attend the Community Development committee meeting, it was the consensus of the committee to hold these two items until the next regular meeting.

Claim of Vernon H. Mickow, 2225 Woodfield Circle, Waukesha

Mr. Kesner told the committee that Mr. Mickow was rear-ended by a Wauwatosa police department van in 2001 and allegedly sustained an injury to the neck. His initial demand for \$20,000 was reduced to \$12,000 with approximately \$3,000 in medical bills. They believe both demands are excessive. He said the medical bills have been reviewed by the attorney's office and it appears that most of the medical bills were for treatments that were not recommended by medical doctors. He recommended denial of the claim.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Grimm to recommend denial of the claim – 7

S. Kirby	\$25.81	Police – 10/7-10/9/02 – MATC Patrol In-Service Training
T. Otzelberger	\$1,975.00	Info. Systems – 11/3-11/7/02 – Baltimore, MD Unisys Unite National Users Conference
S. Javoroski	\$112.16	Health – 9/19/02 – Pewaukee WCCPP Conference
M. Meske	\$100.30	Health – 10/31-11/1/02 – Wisconsin Dells WALHDAB Environmental Health Meeting
C. Caffery	\$112.16	Health – 9/19/02 – Pewaukee WCCPP Conference
K. Ledvorowski	\$286.75	Court Clerk – 11/7-11/8/02 – Wis. Rapids Municipal Court Clerk Seminar
W. Tarman-Ramcheck	\$1,635.01	Publ Wrks – 10/26-11/1/02 – Long Beach, CA Gave Speech at and attended SWANA Conf.
T. Kucharski, P. Dirksmeyer, K. Walbrant	\$615.00	Forestry – 11/7-11/9/02 – Milwaukee Tree Care Ind. Gold Card sem. and trade show
P. Allen, B. Dess, R. Mente	\$262.50	Parks – 11/6/02 – Green Bay WI Park & Rec. Assoc. Annual Conference
G. Gabrish	\$27.00	Police – 11/4-11/6/02 – MATC Patrol In-Service Training
L. Hudson	\$45.00	Police – 11/4-11/8/02 – Oak Creek Major Crime/Death Scene Investigation Class

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Grimm that the vouchers
be allowed and paid – 7

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

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