

CITY OF WAUWATOSA
7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE
WAUWATOSA, WI 53213
Telephone: (414) 479-8917
Fax: (414) 479-8989

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 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.; W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works;

Ald. Stepaniak as Chair called the meeting to order 8:11 p.m.

Bid received for the official newspaper for the City's legal publications

Mr. Wontorek said that an advertisement was placed requesting bids for the official newspaper for the city's legal publications. The only bid received was from Community Newspapers, Inc. Their rates have not changed since 1997. He indicated that the recommendation from the city clerk was that the bid be accepted as submitted.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Jenkins to recommend approval of the bid from Community Newspapers, Inc. - 7

Release of funds on hold pending Governor's budget bill revisions

Mr. Kappel told the committee his department is requesting the release of additional 2002 budget operating and equipment purchase funds. These had been placed on hold due to the uncertainty of potential revisions to State Shared Revenue Funding. He said the total amount requested is \$168,000. That would leave the remaining balance on hold at \$384,200. The funds would go to equipment, building maintenance and Forestry. Ald. Bruderle-Baran asked if the remaining funds will be requested by the end of this year. Mr. Kappel responded that some of the items can be postponed, but some of the items are needed to enable projects to go forward. His recommendation was that the funds be released in order to move forward this year on critical equipment purchases and needed projects.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend releasing \$168,000 in funds on hold - 7

Revision of false alarm fee ordinance

Captain Bozicevich said that the police department is routinely called on false alarms to businesses and residences in the city. The number of false alarms is approximately 1,900 yearly. He said that only 5-8 of those alarms turn out to be valid. The rate of residential to business alarms is 50% for each. The department rate of collections on false alarm fees is not very good. He said that since they are spending a good portion of their time on false alarm calls, they are looking for an incentive for people to maintain and properly use their alarms. His proposal is for a graduated fee system. The first call would be free. At that time the owner would receive an informational pamphlet on maintenance and use of alarms as well as the fee schedule. Calls 2-4 would carry a

\$30 charge each, calls 5-8 would carry a \$70 charge each, calls 9-10 would carry a \$100 each and from the 11th call on a fee of \$200 each would be charged. Captain Bozicevich explained that the City of Racine has used a similar schedule. They used to have approximately 2,000 alarms per year. When they increased their fees, their calls were reduced to 250. He said that the department would like to have the same company that handles parking tickets for the city collect the alarm fees. The company, Professional Accounts Management, would charge \$1.50 per alarm for processing the fees. If a fee goes uncollected it would be sent to a collection agency; if it is not collected by the collection agency the fees would then go on the tax roll. A discussion followed regarding considerations for people who have a hard time operating their alarms correctly either due to age or infirmity. Captain Bozicevich pointed out that the two biggest causes of false alarms are faulty alarm systems and user error. He said that false alarms can occur when there is a power outage, but those instances are rare. He characterized the fee as a user fee not a penalty. The consensus of the committee was support for the false alarm fee revision. It was suggested that a provision be added for flexibility in the fees in cases of hardship.

Moved by Ald. Jenkins, seconded by Ald. Subotich to recommend approval of the false alarm fee revisions; and that an ordinance be drafted for introduction to Council amending the false alarm ordinance by providing that the Police Chief may make exceptions to the fees - 7

Allocation of up to \$20,000 in funds for consultant fees and associated design costs for a parking lot to be located on the Quickflash property

Ms. Welch told the committee that they have been working with HSI GeoTrans on an environmental assessment of the Quickflash Property in preparation for creating a new parking lot on the site. They found that there is a biohazard at the site. The estimated cost for the clean-up was \$228,000. This was determined to be too costly by the Department of Commerce. She said a less extensive clean-up plan was developed that would minimize excavation and create a cap for the site. The asphalt parking lot surface with add strength to the cap. Estimates for this type of clean-up would be \$48,000 to \$59,250 depending upon the amount of soil removed. She said that certain clean-up activities on the site qualify for reimbursement under the State of Wisconsin Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Act (PECFA). Her recommendation was to allocate up to \$20,000 in funds allowing GeoTrans to complete their work. GeoTrans would also provide documentation to the Department of Commerce so the City can receive reimbursement from PECFA for the eligible costs.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Matthews to recommend allocation of up to \$20,000 in funds for consultant fees and associated design costs --

A discussion followed regarding wording contained in a previous contract pertaining to this site. It was suggested that the wording be reviewed during the study phase of the project. Ald. Casey stressed the responsibility the city will have to maintain the cap that will be put in place as part of the clean-up.

Vote on the motion was Ayes: 7

Renewal of Consortium Agreement with the City of West Allis and Milwaukee County for allocation of HOME and CDBG funds for housing programs

Ms. Welch said that the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 allows units of general local government to enter into a mutual cooperation agreement or form a consortium to obtain federal funds as a participating jurisdiction under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. She said the city is in an on-going consortium agreement with the City of West Allis and Milwaukee County. The city benefits from this agreement by making funds available to Wauwatosa residents without having to provide staffing for or administration of the projects.

She told the committee that according to HUD, Milwaukee County received \$1,180,000 in 2001 and \$1,178,000 in 2002 from the HOME program. Wauwatosa's portion of this entitlement amount was 14.6% or \$172,280 in 2001 and \$171,988 in 2002. In addition, the city gives \$50,000 to the County each year for the First Time Homebuyer's Program. She said these funds are available to first-time homebuyers who qualify for the program. Her recommendation was that the consortium agreement be renewed.

Moved by Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Grimm to recommend approval to renew the consortium agreement with the City of West Allis and Milwaukee County - 7

Revised 2003 budget format and content

Mr. Wontorek referred to the packet of information the committee has received that included a memo summarizing a number of different formats that other cities use in their budget review meetings. He outlined the aspects of each budget format example that was attached with the memo. He indicated that his preference was the format included as attachment 6 for the presentation of the budget. He stressed that the earlier the committee comes to agreement on the format, the sooner staff can be oriented to putting together that format. Ald. Casey said he applauded Mr. Wontorek for his efforts in compiling the formats. He liked the simpler format as opposed to the evolution of the current budget document which has become quite confusing. A discussion followed regarding specific information committee members would like to see added or modified particularly the need for clear performance indicators in each department. It was the consensus of the committee that any action on the format of the budget review document be held until the next meeting. This would give committee members a chance to come up with any changes or enhancements.

Moved Ald. Bruderle-Baran, seconded by Ald. Casey to hold this item for two weeks --

Ald. Casey suggested the performance indicators would be very important as a reference for use in discussions regarding taxes and community expectations.

Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 7

Vouchers

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FOR</u>
W. Gehrking	\$509.81	Police - 4/7-4/10/02 - Indianapolis, IN National Technical Investigators Assoc. Conf.
W. Tarman-Ramcheck	\$55.84	Street - 4/30/02 - Madison Recycling Education & Grant Information
C. Fox	\$166.00	Police - 4/1-4/3/02 - Appleton Impaired Driving Conf.
M. Anton	\$459.00	Fire - 4/11-4/13/02 - Indianapolis, IN Fire Department Instructors Conf.
B. Aldana	\$29.00	Legal - 4/25/02 - Milwaukee CLE Credits

B. Aldana	\$50.00	Legal - 5/1/02 - Milwaukee AWL - Women Judge's Night
<u>NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FOR</u>
P. Clarey	\$31.50	Police - 4/23-4/25/02 - Port Washington Drug Investigation Class
F. Carsky	\$30.00	Police - 5/30/02 - Milwaukee Missing and Abducted Children Seminar
J. Plass	\$1,169.86	Comptroller - 5/1-5/4/02 - St. Louis GEMS User Conference
A. Kesner	\$29.00	Legal - 4/25/02 - Milwaukee CLE Government Law
A. Kesner	\$29.00	Legal - 4/22/02 - Milwaukee CLE Meeting & Presentation
F. Knapp	\$348.75	Building - 4/16-4/19/02 - Eau Claire Inspector Recertification
D. Wheaton	\$315.09	Building - 4/16-4/19/02 - Eau Claire Inspector Recertification
W. Mainus	\$331.32	Building - 4/16-4/19/02 - Eau Claire Inspector Recertification
M. Anton	\$45.00	Fire - 5/8/02 - Wauwatosa Milwaukee County Training Officers Mtg.
M. Brown	\$350.61	Personnel - 5/1-5/3/02 - Egg Harbor, WI WPELRA Conf. on Collective Bargaining

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

Claim of Arthur Glor, 2556 N. 83rd Street

Mr. Kesner introduced Mr. Glor explaining that Mr. Glor had submitted a claim based on sewer backup that occurred in his home. He suggested that the committee convene into closed session when Mr. Glor was finished addressing them.

Mr. Glor said he was upset when he heard the city attorney's recommendation denying his claim. He said the facts are that the sewage backup in the city's main backed up into his basement and destroyed everything stored there. He didn't agree that the city was not negligent because the sewage was from the city. He said that city crews saw the damage. He described that there was a combination of an unusual amount of solids, grease and paper that were being blocked by tree roots in the sewer. He maintained that this caused the backup. He reiterated that since it was the city's sewage that backed up into his basement, it was the city's responsibility to pay for the damage. He said he has claimed damages in the amount of \$8,500. He added that he was looking for

a reasonable and ethically sound way of making his family whole again. He said the committee should do what is right and just. He thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak before them. Ald. Subotich stated that when Mr. Glor called him, he went over to Mr. Glor's house to see the damage. He said that Mr. Glor was not exaggerating. Ald. Subotich said he went to other homes in the neighborhood that night. He saw flooding but not as badly as at Mr. Glor's and the water subsided quickly in the other homes but not in Mr. Glor's.

Mr. Kesner recommended that the committee convene into closed session.

Moved by Ald. Casey, seconded by Ald. Grimm 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 - 7

The committee convened into closed session at 9:08 p.m.

Moved by Ald. Grimm, seconded by Ald. Casey to recommend denial of the claim of Arthur Glor. Vote on the motion was, Ayes: 6, Noes: 1 (Subotich)

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa

svh