

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Acting Chairman Tim McCarthy. Committee members present were Deborah Born and Tim McCarthy. Jim Matuszak arrived at 5:50 p.m. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Laura Alkire, Law Director, Amber Rathburn, Deputy Finance Director, and Steve Bronder, Income Tax Commissioner.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed expenditures over \$5,000 for the month of February. Mr. McCarthy asked about a payment for municipal court renovations. Ms. Kabat explained that this was the final payment which was for a change order approved by City Council after the first of the year.

The balance in the Health and Welfare Fund as of February 29 was \$881,184.36. Ms. Rathburn noted that a refund of over \$40,000 was received from the re-insurer in February. Mr. McCarthy asked when the new rates will go into effect for employees, and if they reflected an increase or decrease from last year. Ms. Kabat said that rates increased slightly and went into effect with the last payroll.

Ms. Alkire distributed draft legislation for a contract renewal with Delta Dental. She said that the City has been with Delta Dental for over a decade. She said that there was no rate increase from 2019. She explained that there is not a dollar amount in the contract because it is based on the number of enrollees. Mr. McCarthy clarified that it was the same coverage for the same cost, and Ms. Alkire said that is correct. The Committee agreed 2-0 to recommend approval of the contract with Delta Dental.

TAX COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Bronder reported that tax collections for the month of February were a little over \$1.3 million which is up 14% from February of 2019. He noted that there were three pay dates for many employers in January, and the bulk of the increase is related to withholding taxes. Year to date collections for January and February were \$3.3 million which is up 6.1% from 2019.

2020 AMENDED BUDGET

Ms. Kabat reviewed the 2020 budget amendment. She noted that the \$47,000 for Rotary Park is not in the document that was distributed to City Council. She explained that the additional funds are being requested because utility costs are coming back higher than expected, and the City has requested some modifications such as a standing seam roof and tile up higher on the wall in the bathroom. Ms. Kabat said that there are dollars available in the ending balance of the 404 Fund, but the dollars would need to be appropriated. There was some discussion about using dollars that were budgeted for the

urban paving project that will not be expended for that project because the bids came in below the budgeted amount.

SOLAR POWER & LIGHT/FIRST SOLAR REVIEW

Ms. Alkire stated that a presentation regarding solar power was made to the Committee in February, and a letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, and a copy of the presentation were sent to all City Council members. She said that she hasn't heard anything, and she was wondering what the next step should be. Ms. Born said that she thinks more investigation needs to be done. There was discussion regarding the potential cost savings, and Ms. Kabat said that she can put together a spreadsheet. Mr. Matuszak said that he has not had a chance to review the contract, and it would be nice to have someone review it with regards to the financials. Ms. Alkire said that she can review it, and Mr. Matuszak asked that she put together a legislative type summary document. Ms. Alkire asked if they would like the issue come back to the Committee, and Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Matuszak said that it did not need to, and they asked that the information be sent to all Council members.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. McCarthy moved to go into Executive Session to discuss purchase or sale of real property. Seconded by Mr. Matuszak. The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. McCarthy moved to return from Executive Session. Seconded by Ms. Born. The Committee returned from Executive Session at 6:44 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Matuszak, Chairman
Finance & Economic Development Committee

Next meeting: To be determined.