FINANCE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Mackin at 5:00 p.m. Committee members present were: Maria Ermie and Tom Mackin. John Kevern was absent. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat, Law Director Mathew Beredo, Finance Director Dave Creps, Deputy Finance Director Tim Fisher, and Income Tax Commissioner Steve Bronder.

R-O-W EASEMENT – 332 EAST FIFTH STREET

Mr. Beredo reported that the Planning and Zoning Division was contacted by a realtor regarding the property at 332 East Fifth Street. The property is for sale and when a survey was done, it was determined that a portion of the garage and porch are in the right-of-way. CREAD's recommendation was to give an easement for the minimum amount needed to cover what is in place, at no cost. They would not be allowed to build anything additional in the area covered by the easement. Mr. Mackin asked how long the house and garage have been there. Jim Toon said the house was built in 1954 and he believes the garage is as old as the house. He said the house was sold in 1990, 1995 and 2003 and this was not caught, but they cannot sell it now without getting this remedied. Mr. Toon said the garage is four feet in the right-of-way and the porch is thirteen inches into the right-of-way. The Committee agreed 2-0 to recommend approval of an easement for the property at 332 East Fifth Street. Mr. Mackin asked that the easement limit, to the extent that we can, rebuilding in the right-of-way if the home is destroyed. Mr. Beredo stated that the easement is meant to cover the existing situation.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed the report of expenditures greater than $5,000 for the month of January. There were no questions about the list.

Mr. Creps reported that the balance of the Health Insurance Fund as of January 31st was $374,383. He said that we are dealing with a couple of specific claims, and the balance is expected to go down because he calculated the ending balance into the funding amounts.

Mr. Creps requested approval to issue notes in the amount of $1.5 million to finance the purchase of the new refuse trucks and toters. He said that the notes will not run for a full year, they will mature at the end of October to get in line with the other notes the City issues. Mr. Creps said that the ordinance will be on the March 5th agenda and will contain wording that says the interest rate will be not greater than 2%, but he expects it to actually be closer to 1%. Ms. Ermie wanted to clarify that the City is moving forward with the automated refuse collection at this time because of the opportunity that arose when several employees chose to retire. The City did not fill those spots and chose to move forward with the automated system now; it is not because we have a lot of extra money lying around. Mr. Mackin noted that he attended the public meeting regarding the new automated refuse collection on February 7th. He said that the Public Service representatives did a good job handling residents' concerns. The Committee agreed 2-0 to recommend approval of issuing the notes.

TAX COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Bronder reported that tax collections for January were $1.6 million dollars, which is up 3% over the same time last year.

PROPOSED VACATION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY, 605 W. FRONT ST.

Matt and Sara Weisenburger were in attendance. Ms. Weisenburger stated that they have a new request that the City vacate 39' of the right-of-way in front of their property for a cost not greater than $500. Mr. Mackin stated that the last time this was discussed, the Weisenburgers had requested that 39' be vacated at no cost and he does not see this latest offer as a significant difference. Ms. Kabat said that the City had offered to get the right-of-way outside the footprint of the house for a nominal amount. She added that she met with the Weisenburgers and they are holding firm at 39'. Ms. Ermie said that in her opinion a lot of information has been shared over the last two years, and some of it has been inaccurate and some of it has been incomplete. She said that she presented questions in an e-mail, and she would like confirmation of the answers to those questions. Ms. Kabat said that the Administration is more than happy to go through our records and formulate a timeline. Mr. Mackin asked that this item be put on the agenda next month if the information is ready.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Mackin
Chairperson, Finance Committee