

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE
City Hall – Council Chambers, 1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 - 4:30 PM

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm by Chairperson Dan Zoeller

Roll Call –

Present: Darrell Anderson, Dee Donlevy, Bob LeBreck, Mayor Cliff Martin, Riley Sowle, Lori Stenstrup, and Dan Zoeller

Also Present: Attorney Calvert and City Administrator Brittney Burruel also as recording secretary

Approval of Agenda –

MOTION: Anderson / Stenstrup *Motion to approve the agenda as presented for the Special Finance Committee meeting on November 20, 2024. Voice Vote: 7 ayes M/C*

Public Input – none

Correspondence – none

Discussion/Action/Recommendation on 2025 Budget – Administrator Burruel started off by stating some changes in the budget that cannot be controlled by the Council: 1. Because of the Alderperson Referendum passing increasing the number of Alders from 6 to 8, Salaries will need to be increased by \$8,173 on page 12; 2. The PILOT/Taxes from Municipal Utilities will be decreasing in 2025 by \$35,000 on page 1; and we will need to remove the Commission on Aging room rent revenue of \$8,496 on page 2. The County is restructuring their Aging plan for 2025, eliminating COA. We may be able to collect a small amount of rent if the County keeps us as a meal-site location, but there is no guarantee that they will be using our facilities at all. Next, in a previous meeting the Committee spoke on raising the Parks & Recreation Salary from \$66,300 to \$70,000. Burruel tried to find Park & Rec Director Salaries in comparable WI municipalities, there were no comparables available. The City of Dodgeville, population 5085, pays \$52,000, but they do not have a Campground, Harbor, or the number of parks we have. Because of the drastic changes outside of our control the Council agreed to keep the salary for 2025 at the 2% increase of \$66,300. Next change that was discussed in previous meetings: the fee for Certified Survey Maps. The County charges the City in 2024 \$42. In 2025, the County is increasing that fee to \$137.50. In 2024, the City charges property owners \$142. Does the Council want to raise that fee due to the County's increase?

MOTION: LeBreck / Anderson

Motion to increase the fee for Certified Survey Maps to \$240.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 7 ayes M/C

Next, Burruel explained the health insurance prorations for the part-time employees. Amy Peterson, Library Director, and Burruel feel these percentages should be looked at, as they feel they may no longer be very fair or affordable for our part-time employees with the rising costs of health insurance. Their 2% COL increase barely covers the increase in health insurance. This affects 3 Library employees and 1 City Hall employee. The Committee asked if we could move all of the part-time employees making 32 hours or more to the same rate regardless of their hours. Burruel said she would check with McClone to find out all our options. The budget is not officially approved until approved by the Council after a public hearing. The Committee will continue to look for possible changes, maybe increases in other fees, and see if we can lower the tax levy before approved by Council.

MOTION: LeBreck / Stenstrup

Motion to approve the 2025 Proposed Budget.

Voice Recorded Roll Call Vote: 7 ayes M/C

Adjournment – MOTION: LeBreck / Sowle *Motion to adjourn at 5:42 pm.* **Voice Vote: 7 ayes M/C**

Minutes submitted by City Administrator Brittney M. Burruel