

**Finance Committee
Monday, June 22, 2020
6:00 p.m., Rotunda**

In attendance: J. Coyne - Chairman, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, and J. Shields. B. Lamb, D. Simpson and J. Hazeltine

Also present: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Keith Dirham, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Kathy Patton, Lori Bauer, Kimberly Marshall, Mike Wright, and Debra Halik

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action

2. Motion to Approve MCRC Renewal & Replacement Banners

Mr. Wright stated these are already two sponsors the MCRC already has, they just want to change their banners that are currently hanging on the track railing. Mr. Shields will be abstaining the vote due to part of the money going to his employer. Motion Passes 6-1 (JS abstained)

3. 20-078-4/13 – Consider How to Handle Disconnects After Ord. 62-20 Expires

Mr. Dirham stated the order from Ord. 62-20 expires at the end of June. The states order that superseded that expires July 10th. Today is due date for the June bills so we would typically send shutoff notices tomorrow, we can delay that a day or two. We need clarity on what we are going to authorize as far as payment plans and if there is a plan to wave penalties. Would we consider extending Ord. 62-20 another month so we do shutoffs in August? Shutoff list for June is 92 accounts. That is way more than we normally do. It's usually a couple dozen. The penalties can be waved for June because we have not assessed them yet. We checked with our software vendor to find out if we could reverse penalties from a prior month and there isn't a way to allow that as a single entry. We can remove penalties but it has to be done one account at a time.

Mr. Simpson likes the extension of the shutoff until the end of August, his goal would be to have people get on a payment plan to get caught up. From this point forward they will have to be current every month. Dennie would like to see interest and penalties waved.

Mr. Coyne would agree to wave penalties and interests in a certain respect but only if they get on a payment plan and they follow the payment plan, and at the end of that payment plan all of their penalties and fees would be waved. If they don't follow the payment plan then they get charged the penalties and fees.

Mrs. Hazeltine likes what Mr. Coyne suggested but we keep having this discussion about frequent flyers and whether we are rewarding them, her question is does it really matter if they are not paying their bill, it's obvious they are not paying it for a reason, most people need water and they try to make it a priority and sometimes you just have to pay for other things. They need to be offered the same courtesies that we are extending to all the other people due to the COVID crisis.

Mr. Lamb would like to know how exactly the repayment plan will work, his concern is if you are behind for whatever reason you are behind financially for whatever reason and simply because

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we determine that after August we are to begin shutoffs again and then we are going to start the repayment plan that doesn't necessarily correspond with someone's improvement or ability to either make the monthly payment or to address the penalty. The repayment plan should be a consideration over a period of time, to give people enough time to get current and then enough time to then address the money they owe from failing in the past to pay on time.

Mr. Rose agrees we need to give them some kind of incentive to stay on their repayment plan. Possibly give them a stipend or assistance out of the fund and stretch it out to 12 months reducing the monthly payment. Provide a list where they can go for assistance through the county and state.

Keith stated that we want to make sure that everyone needs to contact them to get on the payment plan because his concern is if they don't have that requirement they automatically put people on a payment plan and 6 months from now people will be calling asking why they have an extra charge on their water bill. Keith would like to send a notice with disconnect when they are actually going to do it and let them know they need to contact us.

Mr. Heffinger stated they keep talking about the penalties going back on there if they miss their payment again, we do have an incentive because we are going to be doing water shutoffs again so if they don't pay their bill then they will lose water as well. Eric suggested using the fund money by stating if they sign up for the payment plan they get \$25 towards their bill.

Keith suggested if somebody misses and does not make a payment on the payment plan, he feels they need to be back on the shutoff list otherwise the hole gets deeper and deeper and they aren't going to be able to get out, but if they are just late are we just going to charge them the penalty on the current amount or the current amount and the payment plan?

Jessica asked Kimberly if she could put something in the Economic Development News Letter and Kimberly stated as long as Keith gives us the verbiage they can do it.

John summed it up about 12 month pay back plan, no shutoffs until after July 31st, as of today waiving all penalties and fees that accrued during the months of March, April, May and June and follow Keith's recommendation if you pay on your payment plan you will receive \$25 from the city on your final 12th payment or pay it off early, in addition it becomes fully payable if the account is final for anybody that moves.

Motion was made by Mr. Shield for payback of 12 consecutive months beginning August 1st, no shutoffs until after July 31st, waived penalties for March, April, May and June for everyone and they receive \$25 credit last month of their payment plan towards their water consumption if they follow payment plan as long as they are not disconnected. Motion seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

Discussion on tax budget:

Mr. Dirham stated the tax budgets were emailed to council on Friday, June 16th, 2020, this is the start of their revenue estimate. There is not a lot of changes, he gets the figures in this out of the 5 year plan, and since the 5 year plan is in process of being updated he used the old one. The big change to point out is the ambulance levy is going to bring in significantly more money because we have the increase which takes effect for the 20/21 collections. Mr. Coyne stated this

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will be on council with the emergency clause, it is not listed on the agenda but it should have been so we are just addressing it now. Mr. Shields moved to approve as amended with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson, Motion passed 7-0.

4. 20-131-6/22 – Increase P.O. #20-571 – Goodyear Tire - Sanitation

Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

5. 20-132-6/22 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – Drug Mart JCG Payments

Mrs. Marshall explained this payment is to Discount Drug Mart on their Job Creation Grant agreements. These three grants had a payroll commitment of \$3,145,797.00 total. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. 20-133-6/22 – CARES Act Funding Resolution

Mr. Dirham stated this is an ordinance we have to pass that says we are going to spend the CARES Act Funding that we are going to apply for on things we are allowed to spend it on. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

7. 20-134-6/22 – Refinancing Existing Debt & Possible New Debt Issue

Mr. Dirham stated there is a lot of information here that he sent to council, it is a complex process. Mr. Coyne stated they will talk a lot about it during a budget meeting when they do the LST or EMS budget, about the options we have and what we want to pick to do the refinancing of our existing debt based upon the cull ability of some of the bonds.

8. 20-135-6/22 – Resolution against Racism

Mr. Coyne stated Pam Miller sent this to him, there has been a lot of issues going on around the county. The city has done many different items with respect to diversity and racism. Pam is involved with a committee that deals with the issues of racism in the county of Medina. Our own Police Department has procedures and protocols that they are involved with. We are all actively addressing the issue but have we done enough. The question is, do we want to have a resolution acknowledging again what we do as a city to address the issue of racism in our city, and how do we want to continue to strive to be better as a city in addressing the issue of racism.

Jess Hazeltine stated passing a resolution against racism does not speak to us doing a poor job thus far, it just speaks to the fact that we want to grow in our understanding of the issue and we will continue to do our best.

Mr. Rose stated sometime in the past we passed a resolution similar to this, we should take that resolution, review it and adjust some of the words to that. It just may need updating.

Mr. Coyne stated he feels we should highlight it again as a city, it's important as a city to acknowledge that we don't support racism and keep moving forward to address the issue as best as possible.

Mr. Shields agrees and feels they need more.

Pam Miller 451 Woodland Drive spoke suggesting more than the resolution that was passed a few years ago which was in support of diversity. This time she suggests passing a resolution declaring racism a public health issue which is what surrounding cities have done. Systemic

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racism is something that affects people of color in all aspects of their lives. Yes, Medina is 95% white, but she feels that why wouldn't Medina as the county seat want to be the leader in saying we won't tolerate racism or disparities in our community that are a direct result of systemic racism.

Young people in Medina recognize that racism still exists and have started an equity round table at the High School and the school board and administration is fully behind that, because kids say that yes racism exists. Pam explained that she feels it is time to take a stand to recognize the sad history of our country and you can be leaders and be intentional about this, and adopt a resolution that declares racism a public issue and commits you to working with the many organizations and agencies, the schools, etc. in our community who are working on this as well to be open with the idea of being involved.

Mr. Coyne feels they are involved stating Chief Barraducci was on the committee and isn't the Diversity Committee Countywide addressing the issues throughout the county too?

Pam stated the Medina Diversity Project is a grass roots organization, they are not a nonprofit, focused mainly on Medina City because that is where they are because they are small but interested in branching out beyond the city as much as they can. It's a citizen group with no resources.

Mr. Coyne mentioned there is a little bit of confusion as far as the public health emergency is concerned, is it a public issue, absolutely.

Mr. Lamb feels they have a tendency to obviously minimize these issues. The issue about it being a health emergency as Pam explained is that it isn't just one simple thing. It includes all these complications that come together into people's lives that make this an emergency. Bill feels they are not a great example at city hall, not through anybody's specific fault, but there has ever only been one person of color in 200 years on city council, only 12 women in 200 years on city council, only one person of color who worked in city hall in 200 years. This is a simple thing to ask, a lot of communities have done it and it wouldn't take long to adapt something similar for us to take a look at and pass to speak to these issues that have been raised.

Mr. Coyne asked Mr. Lamb, since he is head of Special Legislation Committee, if within the next three weeks he can work on something like that to address it with the proper due respect of review.

9. 20-136-6/22 – 2020 Codified Update Ordinance

Kathy Patton stated this is the annual updates to our codified ordinances. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion Passes 7-0.

10. 20- 137-6/22 – MCRC Summer Special Membership Sale Extension

Mr. Wright stated this is a temporary thing this year because of COVID, they want to extend the summer memberships to August, September, & October due to the fact that they are not selling day passes. People have been joining to use the facility so it is working out to our advantage and we would like to extend that and once they do join for a 3 month summer membership it does come off a yearly membership if they want to join. Mr. Shields moved to approve with emergency, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

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11. 20-138-6/22 – Grant Application – Municipal Airport Obstruction Removal Study

Mr. Patton stated that every year they get a \$150,000 set aside from the FAA, this year they would like to use it to do an obstruction removal study this is required by the FAA and this grant will pay for 100% cost of the study.

Mr. Huber stated right now at the airport the west approach on the runway has been shut down because of the height of the trees. This is where the Obstruction Removal Study comes in, it has been moved to a priority. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion Passes 7-0.

12. 20-139-6/22 – Delta Airport Task Order #5 – Obstruction Removal Study

Mr. Patton stated this is to authorize Delta Airport Consultants to be the consultant to complete the study. Mr. Shields moved to approve with emergency, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

13. 20-140-6/22 – Railroad Emergency Repair – Then & Now

Mr. Patton stated about two weeks ago they had a derailment and had an emergency response to repair it. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion Passes 7-0.

14. 20-141-6/22 – Accept Donations to Keep Memorial Pool Open

Mr. Wright stated this is to accept donations to be able to open the pool this year. Keith stated \$30 was deposited along with \$2,600 in 15 checks that are in the vault. The committee that raised \$20,000 to open the pool was present in the audience. It costs a \$1,000 a day to have the pool open so do we open the pool and see how much money we get and keep it open as long as possible with the money that we can generate, because there is no carryforward funds to keep it open.

Mr. Wright stated yes donations they accept would be days they can be open. Hopefully the revenues will build, and they can stay open throughout the summer. The budget of the pool and the rec center are enterprise funds.

Mr. Rose stated he has some verbal commitments from a couple of organizations that will add to the donations.

Tom from Kiwanis spoke on raising funds and their goal to raise \$20,000.00 and they did.

Bill spoke of getting the pool ready and the costs to get it ready and was concerned about possibly closing when money runs out. There is also some COVID money that they can extend if permissible.

Debra Halik, 1100 North Jefferson St. spoke about the pool and getting it open. They didn't open it up with the limitation of closing it in 20 days, that would be a difficult report back to the community and she wouldn't feel comfortable moving forward with that kind of understanding and would like a further discussion out tonight.

Mr. Coyne stated that is a good question but the city can't open it up and pay for it, it's not in the budget.

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Bill doesn't think that 20 days is enough. Dennie feels if the weather permits being outside he doesn't think we will have a problem remaining open. He appreciates all the donations and they will keep the pool open as long as possible.

Mayor Hanwell stated in fairness to Debra and Mike, the 20 days was never brought up until tonight, our goal was when he talked to Mike and he said if we can come up with \$20,000 was even if the rec center had to support this as a service for this year because of the COVID to make it available that we would run it from July 6th to when the normal close would be, generally when the children go back to school which is still undetermined at this point. If we have to use the carryforward from the rec center to get us through that last gap if we can help assist with some of the COVID and the rest of the council is ok with that and Mr. Huber agrees it can be used for that if not and that money isn't spent and goes back into the kitty you can probably appropriate it then for that because he believes it is general fund money.
Mike Wright stated he is ok with that.

Mr. Lamb would like an occasional update from Mr. Wright how the safe and social distancing is working out and doing this as safe as we can.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated in her ward the concerns are not for the pool they are for finding housing and paying bills.

Mr. Wright stated he doesn't want anyone to feel as if he did not want to open the pool this year, in fact, he donated \$500 of his own money to help open it.

Mr. Shields moved to accept all donations to open the pool with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

15. 20-142-6/22 – MCRC/Partner Marketing Contract Extension

Mr. Wright stated the Partner Marketing contract allows for a three year extension and we missed it with COVID so they didn't get to extend the contract and would like to go with a one year extension which was approved by the Law Department and recommended by the Rec Advisory Board purposely, so they can have time to review how the sponsorship is doing and if it needs any changes. Mr. Shields will abstain since this involves his employer. Mr. Simpson moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Rose. Motion passes 6-1 (JS abstained).

Commented [TK1]:

16. 20-143-6/22 – Bids, Project #947: Medina Municipal Airport: Detention Basin

Mayor Hanwell and Mr. Huber met with members of the Stephenson Foundation and asked with help for the \$152,000 expense. This detention basin is necessary and was promised before the last hanger was built and for future hangars to be built or improved, we are required to do this detention basin. The Foundation graciously approved paying up to \$50,753.00 with the understanding that council, unless we could find any other grants and we haven't yet, would pay the remaining \$101,507.00 and are asking for council to commit on this.

Mayor Hanwell stated the residents are benefitted because the businesses in the community use that airport and the businesses in the community are paying income tax to keep it at a lower level for our residents. It costs money to have an airport and to upkeep it. This is something that the Feds changed the cards on us, and now we are stuck.

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Mr. Coyne suggests taking it out of the 301 capital account instead of taking it out of the operating funds of the general fund, because he doesn't feel we can afford to take it out of the general fund.

Mr. Shields thanked the Mayor and Greg Huber for working with the Stephenson Foundation and getting them to donate very generously. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion Passed 7-0.

17. 20-144-6/22 – Increase P.O. 20-1160 – Rocco Masonry – Public Bldgs.

Mr. Piccoli stated they repaired and replaced bricks and mortar around City Hall. We started with a \$10,000 P.O. went to \$15,000 but we have a slab right outside these doors here that are compromised as well as the steps and bannister that holds the bannister and that would be another \$3,300 and he is respectfully asking to increase the P.O. to \$20,000. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion Passes 7-0.

Mr. Dirham asked if council wants to do an issue this fall on the debt or wait until next spring. Council's consensus seemed to be in the spring.

There being no further business before the Finance Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

John M. Coyne, Chairman