

Finance Committee
Monday, May 9, 2022
6:00 p.m. Medina City Hall – Multi-Purpose Room

In attendance: J. Coyne – Chairman, P. Rose, J. Shields, B. Lamb, R. Haire, J. Hazeltine and Dennie Simpson.

Also present: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Keith Dirham, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Dan Gladish, Jansen Wehrley, Theresa Merkle, Jerry Gunner, Lt. Marcum, Christy Moats, Sara Crawford, Jarrod Fry and Kathy Patton.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action

2. 22-109-4/25 – Amend Code Section 941 - Garbage

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

3. 22-110-5/9 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – Coopers Leading Edge - Sanitation

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

4. 22-111-5/9 - Budget Amendments

#2022-017 – Ray Mellert Park / Valor Court Grant

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

5. 22-112-5/9 – ARP 2022 Grant Application – Police – License Plate Readers

Lt. Marcum stated this request is to apply for a \$60,000 grant through the American Rescue Plan and this will pay for 10 license plate readers and Flock Cameras for two years. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. 22-113-5/9 – Discussion: Using Revenue Loss Provision for ARPA Reporting

Mr. Dirham stated they've never seen revenue loss in a grant before, when the grant came out they had restricted it where you still had to show what you were spending the money on, and in addition to that, they cut back on what the revenue loss could be. The granting agency is strongly suggesting that we do use it.

7. 22-114-5/9 – Amend Job Description – Seasonal Laborer

Jansen Wehrley stated currently the Laborer job description is universal for seasonal, part-time laborer and full-time laborers. One of the requirements in the job description is that you have to have a valid driver license and remain insurable under the city insurance policy. This year with seasonal employees we've seen a decline in individuals turning in applications and have struggled to hire. We looked at the possibility of hiring minors with summer work permits and need to remove the driver license requirement specifically for seasonal laborers on a new job description. Emergency clause is requested because they are looking to move forward with hiring. Mr. Shields stated he is aware that this went through Civil Service and was approved. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 22-115-5/9 – Accept Friends of Cemetery Letter of Intent/Donation – Cemetery Laborer

Mr. Wehrley stated they've been through 11 part-time employees since 2013 and this is a

position that requires a different type of skill set where you are dealing with families, lot sales and maintenance at the cemetery. The Friends of the Cemetery and the Cemetery Commission understand the importance this position. They were asked at the budget hearings to consider changing the cemetery fees which they did and as well as find a creative way to fund the position. They identified items they had in their budget for 2022 and presented the list to the Friends of the Cemetery to consider funding those items out of their budget, to hopefully free up money for converting this position. Board of Trustees met and agreed to fund up to \$21,000.00 to fund the position as of July 1st for half a year which will be \$20,443.00. Jansen spoke on some options moving forward in 2023. Significant expenses coming up, there is carryforward in the department and looking at purchasing a data management system for the Cemetery and there is a pending request to see if they can fund that using ARP funds because that would free up about \$40,000.00. Hopefully with the fee change they will have a little more revenue coming in.

Mr. Coyne stated this is a question for us on a long-term basis how to come up with the funding every year.

Mayor Hanwell stated they aren't looking for an additional appropriation, they are just trying to find other mechanisms to free up funding via grants or other projects that can be funded either with grants or in the future with Friends of the Cemetery. It is their goal to continue the position into the future, not just do it for a year or two. It's agreed that the position is needed. Mayor Hanwell stated if they can't get grants then they will continue to adjust things to keep the position going.

Jansen stated no matter what – they always get the job done but for him the frustrating piece is a lot of times it is at the cost of other departments. The Forestry Department helps out the Cemetery almost every day. They are on overtime mowing grass right now. The Parks Department in the winter time while burials have been up 30% in the last two years it is not uncommon in the winter time to have 5 employees doing full internment and they've made it work through the collaboration with the other departments, but when you look at the budget for the cemetery, it's much more than what it is on paper. Jansen stated he wouldn't be recommending this position if he didn't feel strongly about it.

Mr. Simpson feels Jansen and the sexton and the other departments have exhausted all options like Jansen stated. The Friends of the Cemetery have been so generous to the operations of the cemetery and we couldn't have done things without them. The bond issue is going to be dropping off the Rec Center next year and that should free up some funds. There are going to be some opportunities we will be able to use. We may at some time have to reallocate the income tax and hopefully that will be a last option. Dennie feels this position is important enough and should be passed immediately to get us through the rest of this year and hopefully able to continue it.

Mr. Coyne stated he thinks everyone on council seems comfortable moving forward doing it he feels they just have to make sure and keep track of making sure we are covering the cost of it.

Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

9. 22-116-5/9 – MOU w/Medina County – Sanitary Sewer Replacement – S. Prospect

Mr. Patton stated this is the MOU between the City and County Commissioners outlining the

agreement and has been approved by the County Commissioners. Mr. Huber asked for it to be passed subject to his review. Mr. Shields moved to approve subject to final approval of the Law Director, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7- 0.

10. 22-117-5/9 – Amend Job Description - Laborer

Mr. Piccoli stated the laws have changed this year for someone that wants to obtain their CDL endorsement, they now have to go to a trained certified facility and obtain the endorsement for Class B and higher. The Civil Service Commission has looked at this and approved it as he is asking for the preferred in the job description as it states valid class B commercial drivers licenses preferred. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7- 0.

11. 22-118-5/9 – Amend S&B 31.02(E) MCRC Part Time Pay Rate Amendment

Jansen Wehrley stated they are still having hiring issues at the rec center with front desk employees as well as life guards. Currently they have 40 life guards on staff and last year at this time they had 62. They may have to close pools or make some changes in order to staff. The change with minimum wage and the market right now is part of the reason they need to correct this by doing away with the current part-time pay scale that we have and realigning with the pay scale that the city uses as a whole with some minor modifications to simplify the entire pay grid. They have identified positions by groups.

Christy Moats compared where the numbers would have been if they were doing the cost of living increases all along since 2009. There has not been a membership rate increase since 2016 and that is the next proposal to adjust by the consumer price index inflation rate every year as well as increasing the day passes. These two things would cover this entirely. Having a very hard time filling front desk positions because \$9.72 is not very competitive. This grid was designed so that they would always be keeping up with the cost of living. Nobody at a step - A in the rec center has had an increase in wages since 2009 and they just can't compete like that.

Mr. Simpson feels the increases are necessary and doesn't think membership increases will keep people away from joining the rec, when services are cut and customer service is not up to par pre-pandemic that is where we will lose patrons. Dennie feels these changes are spot on.

Mr. Rose feels there will be some people that will not join or renew because of the increase in membership. Let's not assume it will go one for one.

Jansen stated that everything that they are doing is in preparation for their income tax debt service to fall off and for them to be self-sufficient, the proposal that they have about the membership rate increase being tied to the CPI that will be evaluated every year so we are not going to increase it if we don't have to increase it, but if we do increase, we have the ability to go up to what the cost of living is or the consumer price index. Their traffic for day passes is like 300% of where they usually are. They've done a lot to improve the facility with new fitness equipment and new water feature. If we are going to do an increase, it makes sense to do it now because they are investing in it.

Mr. Shields stated that with the day passes things are still not back to normal and people are worried about taking a membership and then the Rec Center has to close or something happens. He thinks they do the day passes for now, but hopefully as they become more and more comfortable, they will begin to change from a pass to a membership and feels the timing is

really good for the increase.

Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

12. 22-119-5/9 – Amend Ord. 89-22 – MCRC Membership Rates

Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

13. 22-120-5/9 – ARPA – Small Business Workforce Assistance Grant

Mayor Hanwell stated one of the recommendations of the administration was a Work Force Assistance Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00. The committee requested that \$50,000.00 of that be set aside to assist micro-businesses. Hoping to begin the program July 1st. Forms will be available on the city website and cutoff will be August 8th, 2022. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

14. Executive Session: (to consider the employment of a public employee or official)

It was moved by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Simpson to enter into Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. to consider the employment of a public employee or official to include the Mayor and Law Director. Motion passed by the yeas votes of B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, J. Coyne, D. Simpson, R. Haire, and J. Hazeltine.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

The Finance Committee reconvened at 7:30, and there being no further business adjourned.

John M. Coyne, Chairman