

MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
6:15 P.M., FEBRUARY 1, 2021
A/V CONFERENCE ROOM*

Joseph Jenkins, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Finance to order at 6:15 p.m., February 1, 2021, in the Audio/Visual Room in City Hall*.

A silent roll was taken by the Clerk and a quorum was established. The following committee members were present:

Joseph Jenkins, Chair
Bobby Reishman, Vice Chair
Ben Adams
Brent Burton
Becky Ceperley
Mary Beth Hoover
Will Laird

*In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting of the Finance Committee was conducted electronically. The meeting was made available to the public as a live stream via Zoom and CivicClerk (per the agenda).

I. DISCUSSION:

a. Approval of Previous Minutes - Councilmember Reishman asked for unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the minutes for the January 19, 2021 meeting and that they be approved as distributed. There was no objection and the minutes were approved.

II. RESOLUTIONS:

- a. Resolution No. 420-21 – Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to enter into a construction contract with RK Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$428,624.13 for the repair of Barlow Drive as part of the West Virginia Division of Highways' Industrial Road Access Grant Program, where the contract is being awarded following a competitive bidding process.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor or City Manager is authorized to enter into a construction contract with RK Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$428,624.13 for the repair of Barlow Drive as part of the West Virginia Division of Highways' Industrial Road Access Grant Program, where the contract is being awarded following a competitive bidding process.

City Manager, Jonathon Storage, added that the City received bids to repair Barlow Drive, which has had significant stability issues over the years. He added that the repair work will focus on installing retaining walls at key points along the route that parallels the Elk River on the East side within Ward 8. The Barlow Drive Project is an approved WV DoT Industrial Road Access Program grant recipient.

Councilmember Jenkins confirmed with Storage that the proposed accepted bid is less than the awarded grant money, so funding is available if more is needed later that is within the grant's scope.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With a majority of members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 420-21 approved.

- b. Resolution No. 421-21 - Authorizing the global settlement of pending disputed claims against the City by the Estate of Heather Ross and the minor children of Heather Ross, as alleged in Kanawha County Circuit Court Civil Action No. 20-C-683, pursuant to the recommendation of the City Solicitor.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the City Council hereby authorizes and approves the global settlement of all pending disputed claims against the City by the Estate of Heather Ross and the minor children of Heather Ross, as alleged in Kanawha County Circuit Court Civil Action No. 20-C-683, in the amount of \$1,150,000.00, pursuant to the recommendation of the City Solicitor. The City Council authorizes the City Solicitor and City Manager to take all necessary steps to finalize resolution of the claims.

City Attorney, Kevin Baker, added that the resolution authorizes the settlement of pending claims from the estate of Heather Ross and her minor children. The claims arise from a high-speed police chase that resulted in Ms. Ross being struck as she was walking two of her children to elementary school. Ms. Ross spent seven days in the hospital, ultimately succumbing to her injuries. Her estate and her minor children made separate claims against the City. Upon advice of Counsel, the City sought to mediate these claims to a final settlement pending City Council approval and then approval from the Court.

Councilmember Jenkins confirmed that the vehicle that crashed into Ms. Ross was not a city vehicle but the suspect's vehicle that was being chased.

Councilmember Adams clarified that, with respect to both claims, the Court makes the determination as to how the funds are distributed and maintained.

Councilmember Jenkins added that that in this instance, the City will hit its self-insured limit of \$300,000, the rest being covered by the insurance carrier upon reimbursement.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With a majority of members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 421-21 approved.

- c. Resolution No. 422-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to purchase a rear-loading miniature refuse collection truck for the Charleston Refuse Department from West Virginia Tractor Company in the amount of \$91,975.00 as the result of a competitive bidding process.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor or City Manager is authorized to purchase a rear-loading miniature refuse collection truck for the Charleston Refuse Department from West Virginia Tractor Company in the amount of \$91,975.00 as the result of a competitive bidding process.

Storage added that the City accepted bids for this equipment and received a single bid in response. Upon review of the market, the price was determined to be competitive. This equipment is not part of the normal replacement cycle, but will be purchased instead of replacing two pieces of equipment.

Councilmember Jenkins confirmed with the Refuse Director Jered Lanham that the type of vehicle being proposed would be for areas that have hills and tighter areas. It will also prevent bags from flying out of the truck, and will help to reduce injuries.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With a majority of members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 422-21 approved.

- d. Resolution No. 423-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to enter into a contract with McNeil Fence Company in the amount of \$ 69,992.00 for the construction of fencing and gates for new City dog parks located at Cato Park and Dunbar Street. The purchase price was determined through a competitive bidding process where McNeil Fence Company was the sole bidder.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor or City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with McNeil Fence Company in the amount of \$ 69,992.00 for the construction of fencing and gates for new City dog parks located at Cato Park and Dunbar Street. The purchase price was determined through a competitive bidding process where McNeil Fence Company was the sole bidder.

Storage added that the City received bids for fencing for two new dog parks at Cato Park and Dunbar Street. Upon review of the national market, the City Engineer Department determined that the price was fair and on the lower end of the national average.

Councilmember Jenkins asked for the breakdown between the two parks. City Engineer, Chris Knox replied that Cato Park is about 1,065 ft and Dunbar Street will be around 240 feet.

Councilmember Adams confirmed with Knox that there is currently a small lot with grass behind the old Quarrier Diner, which is where the park will go.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With a majority of members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 423-21 approved.

- e. Resolution No. 424-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to submit an application to the FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program in the amount of \$325,939 that includes the required 10% cash match and administer any funds awarded. The Charleston Fire Department will use these funds to purchase 33 sets of bunker gear, 84 pairs of boots, 155 pairs of gloves, 155 hoods, 49 helmets, 3 gear washers and 9 dryers.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor or City Manager is authorized to submit an application to the FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program in the amount of \$325,939 that includes the required 10% cash match and administer any funds awarded. The Charleston Fire Department will use these funds to purchase 33 sets of bunker gear, 84 pairs of boots, 155 pairs of gloves, 155 hoods, 49 helmets, 3 gear washers and 9 dryers.

Storage added that the program under this grant program is part of the of the national preparedness system that works to build, sustain and deliver core capabilities needed to achieve a more secure and resilient nation. The CPD seeks to secure this grant in order to purchase needed supplies and gear.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With a majority of members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 424-21 approved.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.