

MINUTES
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
5:00 P.M., MARCH 15, 2021
THE MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY*

Joseph Jenkins, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Finance to order at 5:00 p.m., March 15, 2021.

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 (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 March 1, 2021 meeting and that they be approved as distributed. There was no objection and the minutes were approved.

II. RESOLUTIONS:

- a. Resolution No. 439-21 – Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to submit an application to the WV Division of Administrative Services under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program for the Charleston Police Crime Victims Specialist in the amount of \$39,850 and administer any funds awarded. These funds will partially reimburse the City for an employee's salary, provide travel/training and bus vouchers for crime victims.

Be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor or City Manager is hereby authorized to submit an application to the WV Division of Administrative Services under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant program for the Charleston Police Crime Victims Specialist in the amount of \$39,850 and administer any funds awarded. These funds will partially reimburse the City for an employee's salary, provide travel/training and bus vouchers for crime victims.

Chief Hunt added that the City does this application annually. It helps to reimburse overtime for the detective that is assigned to domestic crimes.

Councilmember Laird added that this federal funding stream is in jeopardy. The money comes from the Crimes Victims Fund. There is a proposed bill to fix that issue that will hopefully pass.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 439-21 approved.

- b. Resolution No. 440-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to purchase 18 hand-held Kenwood IRP radios with accessories and 5 Kenwood IRP mobile radios from Billy C. McCalliser Electronic Services, Inc. in the amount of \$26,938.78, where the radios will be used by members of the Neighborhood Assistance Officers (NAO) program. The purchase will be made pursuant to a competitively sourced state-wide contract and grant funds will be used to make the purchase.

Be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor or City Manager is authorized to purchase 18 hand-held Kenwood IRP radios with accessories and 5 Kenwood IRP mobile radios from Billy C. McCalliser Electronic Services, Inc. in the amount of \$26,938.78, where the radios will be used by members of the Neighborhood Assistance Officers (NAO) program. The purchase will be made pursuant to a competitively sourced state-wide contract and grant funds will be used to make the purchase.

Chief Hunt added that the purchase will update some out-of-date radios that don't pick up appropriate channels/frequencies.

Councilmember Jenkins added that he is a Neighborhood Assistance Officer, and he appreciates the Chief's support of the program.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 440-21 approved.

- c. Resolution No. 441-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to purchase various items of body armor for 19 members of the Charleston Police Department's SWAT Team from Galls, LLC, in the amount of \$62,805.50, where the purchase will be made pursuant to a competitively sourced state-wide contract and where asset forfeiture funds will be used to cover the purchase expense.

Be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Mayor or City Manager is authorized to purchase various items of body armor for 19 members of the Charleston Police Department's SWAT Team from Galls, LLC, in the amount of \$62,805.50, where the purchase will be made pursuant to a competitively sourced state-wide contract and where asset forfeiture funds will be used to cover the purchase expense.

Chief Hunt added that this purchase will replace body armor that has expired.

Councilmember Adams Confirmed with Chief Hunt that this will replace all of the special vest body armor used by the SWAT Team.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 441-21 approved.

- d. Resolution No. 442-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to enter into a contract with Specialty Groups, Inc. in the amount of \$633,750 for the repair or replacement of various streetlights along Kanawha Boulevard, East, as the result of a competitive bidding process. The work will include repairing pole foundations, repairing electrical systems, and painting.

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 Specialty Groups, Inc. in the amount of \$633,750 for the repair or replacement of various streetlights along Kanawha Boulevard, East, as the result of a competitive bidding process. The work will include repairing pole foundations, repairing electrical systems, and painting.

City Manager, Jonathan Storage, added that the contract will replace and refurbish approximately 90 streetlights along Kanawha Boulevard. Last year, several had to be removed and replaced with temporary lights as a safety precaution. He added that years of neglect has caused foundation and wiring issues.

Councilmember Jenkins confirmed with Storage and City Engineer, Chris Knox, that the purchase will be for lights that are East of the Elk River and some of the West Side. The actual light fixtures will not be replaced; the poles will be removed, painted and replaced on new foundations.

Councilmember Hoover added that she is very excited for this project. She confirmed that the project will most likely start within the next month. She confirmed that the funds will come from the Facilities Maintenance Fund, outside of the General Fund.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 442-21 approved.

- e. Resolution No. 443-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to enter into a renegotiated one-year agreement with J. Arthur Dail, Inc. for the provision of ongoing health benefit plan management assistance services, where the City will pay \$1.75 per “Benefit Eligible Active Employee” per month and \$3.00 per benefit “Eligible Pre and Post 65 Retired Employee” per month.

Be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to enter into a renegotiated one-year agreement with J. Arthur Dail, Inc. for the provision of ongoing health benefit plan management assistance services, where the City will pay \$1.75 per “Benefit Eligible Active Employee” per month and \$3.00 per benefit “Eligible Pre and Post 65 Retired Employee” per month. The agreement is attached as Exhibit A hereto.

Storage added that the City has had a long-standing agreement with J. Arthur Dail, Inc. to provide general healthcare insurance consulting services. They provide critical services when it comes to assessing the utilization of the City’s self-insured component (currently utilized by retirees), which has largely diminished since all active employees have switched to PEIA. The negotiation is to recognize that a significant amount of the City’s employees are now on a managed plan.

Councilmember Jenkins confirmed that this will mainly be to manage the retired employees that are still on the self-insured plan. Storage added that the consultant also helps with dental/vision plans (for active and retired employees) which are not under PEIA.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 443-21 approved.

- f. Resolution No. 444-21 - Whereas, the City Council approved Resolution No. 404-20 on December 21, 2020, authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to contract with the American Ramp Company in the amount of \$253,518.69 for the construction of a new skate park;

Whereas, additional conversations have occurred between the City Administration and members of the skating community regarding the planned construction of the skate park;

Whereas, as a result of those ongoing conversations, the City Administration believes that the original skate park design lacked qualities that would facilitate use of the park by young and physically limited persons;

Whereas, the City Administration has worked with the American Ramp Company to re-design certain aspects of the skate park to better facilitate more inclusive use of this planned public facility;

Whereas, the re-designed skate park would exceed the contract price authorized in Resolution No. 404-20 by \$35,497.83; and

Whereas, the City Council believes the proposed changes to the skate park design are worthwhile and desired; 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 the American Ramp Company in the amount of \$289,016.52 for the construction of a new City skate park, where the contract was sourced through a competitive City evaluation process.

Storage added that the Administration had some additional follow-up discussions with the skating community, and decided to revise the plans to be more accessible to all ages and skill levels.

Councilmember Jenkins confirmed with Storage that the price difference is \$35,497.83.

Mayor Goodwin added they they had initially focused on teenagers and more experienced skateboarders. At a recent meeting, a young boy informed them that ramps at a certain elevation would not fit his skating ability, and requested that a lower ramp be added. Councilmember Laird added that it is important to take this into consideration.

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 444-21 approved.

- g. Resolution No. 445-21 - Approving the Official Municipal Budget Document for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, as proposed and included as Exhibit A hereto, inclusive of the Municipal Levy Rates Estimate for Current Expenses and Excess Levy purposes.

Be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the Official Municipal Budget Document for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022, as proposed and included as Exhibit A hereto, inclusive of the Municipal Levy Rates Estimate for Current Expenses and Excess Levy purposes.

Storage added that the Administration has received very good feedback on the budget. He added that no positions are being eliminated, 3 million is being allotted for road paving, the demolition budget remains the same, the CLRA will be made a priority by establishing a dedicated planner and there are no reductions to funding the police and fire departments. Storage added that House Bill 2256 might eliminate the City user fee, which is used to fund all street paving and 20% of the police department (\$7 million of revenue). While the current budget does not account for salary increases for the Police Department, they are doing a comprehensive study to make sure the City is compensating its Officers fairly and in line with similar departments. They have partnered with PEIA to make the clinic an approved provider, which will save approximately \$400,000/year.

Councilmember Jenkins noted that the budget has been updated with the certified assessed levy evaluations. He confirmed with Chief Hunt that the CPD currently has 152 uniformed members (11 short of the max is those currently enrolled pass the academy).

Councilmember Reishman moved to approve the Resolution. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, Chairperson Jenkins declared Resolution No. 445-21 approved.

III. Miscellaneous

Councilmember Jenkins asked the Committee's opinion on whether they should continue to meet via Zoom or in person. Councilmember Reishman stated he would prefer to meet in person. Councilmember Ceperley agreed, adding that she is sometimes concerned with being able to make it to the Convention Center in time for the Council meeting. Councilmember Hoover agreed that the timing and interactions would be better in person.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.