

City of Merrill - Personnel and Finance Minutes  
Tuesday, July 26, 2016

Alderman Schwartzman, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Committee members present were: Alderman Schwartzman, Alderman Meehean and Alderman Russell

Also in attendance: Finance Director Unertl, Fire Chief Savone, Library Director Stevens, City Attorney Hayden, and Dewey Pfister

Vouchers were reviewed. Alderman Russell had a question regarding C&D Excavating invoices. Finance Director reported that both invoices should have been coded to Page Milk demolition. Motion by Meehean, second by Russell to place vouchers on file.

Preliminary budgets for the T.B. Scott Library and Merrill Ambulance/EMS were discussed. Motion by Alderman Meehean, second by Alderman Russell to approve and forward to Lincoln County.

Preliminary 2017 budget parameters were reviewed, as well as historical Net New Growth (which is the State Levy Limit). There will be increases in Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) percentages. Preliminary Non-Union wage increases are comparable to those in Police Union and Fire Union 2017 contracts. Preliminary projection for group health insurance is 10% premium increase with projected additional 1.0% employee contribution.

A review and discussion was held regarding mid-year financial status. Finance Director Unertl gave a report.

Discussion was held regarding tax settlement including delinquent taxes and special assessments, non-lapsing accounts, and grants. There was brief discussion on the status of the Historic Preservation Committee and its role in municipal government. This will be discussed at a future budget meeting. Finance Director Unertl presented her report on the City's mid year fiscal status. Retirements and retirement payouts were briefly discussed. No action taken.

Brian Reilly, Ehlers and Associates, gave a presentation regarding Refinancing and New Borrowing options as outlined in materials he presented. The report included a discussion of present City financial position, refinancing options, bond rating mechanism, and future and existing debt and debt service. Motion by Meehean, seconded by Russell to approve the preliminary finance plan as presented. Motion carried. To start the process, various borrowing resolution will be included on the Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> Common Council meeting agenda.

Monthly reports were reviewed. Motion by Meehean, seconded by Russell to place reports on file. Passed unanimously.

No one was present for public comment.

The next Personnel and Finance meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

Alderman Schwartzman read the closed session notice. Motion by Meehean, seconded by Russell to go into closed session at 6:25. All voting members voted "yes".

There was brief report on City group health insurance utilization in 2016 and potential future options.

Meeting adjourned from closed session at 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by City Attorney Tom Hayden