



Finance Committee
Monday, November 18, 2024 - 3:30 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Committee Chair Donald Barnard called the Finance Committee meeting for November 18, 2024 to order at 3:33 pm

Members Present - Don Barnard, Bob Orsini, Jeff Barr

Absent - None

Staff present - Sean Staneart, Dave Delande, Jack Liggett, Rusty Smart, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - None

2. Budget 2025 workshop

Don Barnard asked if the city cut the money for fireworks out of the budget, he has heard that "on the street". The Finance Director said no, the money for fireworks is still budgeted. Discussion on funding the fireworks through the recreation board (Greater Park & Rec District), decision to take \$10,000 out of the legislative line item and put it into parks and rec (GJPRD) tagged for fireworks. Discussion on Tree City USA, \$2,000 is still in the budget, decision to leave it. Don Barnard asked how much money was going to JAG in this year's budget. Sean Staneart reviewed line items; \$45,000 in Water Operations fund/Accounting and Legal Fees, \$45,000 Sewer Operations Fund/Accounting and Legal Fees. Sean said this was the same amount budgeted for 2024, but there have been additional legal fees, Dave Delande said around \$30,000. Sean added that in that piece, City Council appropriated half the engineering fees for the study to be done through EMH&T, \$62,000, so of that money, not all is legal fees, there is also the lobbyist. Jeff Barr said that as a finance committee member, he wanted to be prepared to answer questions about what was spent in 2024 for JAG specifically. Sean said he would get with the Finance Director for a breakdown of JAG specific legal fees. He said lobbyist was \$12,000 (\$4,000 per month), he will get them a full breakdown by tomorrow's meeting.

Don Barnard said the goal is to hire an additional police officer, a street person, and a planner this year, so three new employees, these are not new positions, this is filling positions we have lost. He added that we are putting \$700,000 into savings (to establish a rainy day fund and rebuild our credit). Sean said that in his new flow chart, there will be a position for Development Director, that has not made it into the budget, it may be a conversation for next year, there will be some things that fall off. Sean said if a planner is hired, he would like MKSK to train them for an entire year. Discussion and decision to lower the amount going to the Budget Stabilization Fund to \$600,000 and budget for the Development Director position, in case the right person comes along. Sean said that director would be over the Planner and the Code Enforcement Officer. Don Barnard said budget highlights then are; four new employees, \$600,000 in savings/rainy day fund to reestablish credit, road projects for Douglas and paving of other streets, and four percent

increase in wages.

Committee working toward budget Ordinance introduction on December 3rd and vote on December 10th.

3. Other Business

Sean Stanearth said that he would like to give the committee some needed information in executive session tonight before the executive session tomorrow night with the rest of council.

ACTION: Jeff Barr moved to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential business information of an applicant for economic development; Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows:

AYES: Jeff Barr, Bob Orsini, Donald Barnard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

Finance Committee entered Executive Session at 4:06 pm and returned to Regular Session at 4:10 pm.

4. Adjourn

With no further business, a motion to adjourn carried 3-0. The meeting ended at 4:10 pm.