

FINANCE, LICENSE & REGULATION COMMITTEE- BUDGET WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014 - 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

Chairperson Lyon called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Lyon, Kehoe, Kupsik. Alderman Kordus arrived at 4:32 p.m. Absent: Alderman Wall. Also Present: City Administrator Jordan, Comptroller Pollitt, Mayor Connors, Police Chief Rasmussen, Assistant Police Chief Reuss, Lt. Gritzner, Public Works Director Winkler, Darien Schaefer, Brian Pollard, Rick Bittner and Tom Hartz.

Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2), limited to items on this agenda except for public hearing items. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes. None.

Review and Discussion of the 2015 Budget

At the last budget meeting of the Finance Committee, the budgets of all departments were reviewed and more cuts were made. There is still a \$66,000 shortfall in the budget. The Committee agreed that it was not prudent to go through the budget line by line to see if more cuts can be made. The Committee suggested several ways to raise revenues and asked staff to take their suggestions and determine what increases could be derived by their implementation.

The first suggestion was to increase parking tickets from \$12.00 to \$20.00 which would increase revenues by \$80,000. Staff contacted other surrounding communities to see what they charged for parking tickets. Elkhorn, Burlington and Delevan charged \$20.00 and after 10 days doubled the fine to \$40.00. If the fine was not paid in 30 days it would be \$50.00. Fontana charges \$15.00 and if it is not paid in 10 days the fine doubles to \$30.00. If it is not paid within 30 days, the fine is \$40.00. In Lake Geneva the fine is \$12.00, and if the ticket is not paid in 10 days it doubles to \$24.00. If it is still not paid, a second letter is sent and the fine is raised to \$30.00.

The second suggestion was to raise the child beach pass by \$1.00 which would result in an increase of approximately \$8,000. Fontana and Williams Bay charge \$4.00 for a child's admission fee.

Another suggestion was to cover the City's costs for the time it takes to distribute beach tags. The surrounding cities and villages charge a nominal fee to cover their distribution costs. Fontana charges \$4.00 for each tag. Williams Bay charges \$2.00 for each tag. The beach tags are free to residents in Lake Geneva.

Information was provided to show what could be raised from a mill rate increase if the assessed value remained the same. Currently, the City's rate is 6.04. If it was raised to 6.14, the increase in revenue would be \$100,000. If it was raised to 6.09, the revenue would increase \$50,000.

Raises for all full and part-time employees were discussed. A 1% increase would cost \$50,000 and includes all benefits. A 2% increase would cost \$100,000 including all benefits.

There was discussion of the Chamber of Commerce's room tax proposal asking if the City would agree to a set amount, and anything over that amount would go to the Chamber. There was also discussion of raising the room tax percentage to provide more revenue to the Chamber and the City.

The Committee agreed to recommend an increase of \$4,000 to the YMCA for new programs.

The Committee also recommends that the City agree to extend the current contract with John's Disposal Service for another 4 years. John's has offered to continue the contract for 2015 at the current rate without a CPI increase and the remaining years could only increase by additional residences being added for pickup and the CPI. This would save the City over \$5,000 a year. Burlington was paying over \$15.00 for refuse pickup and recycling and is now entering a contract with John's at the same rate the City of Lake Geneva pays - \$12.23 per household. Elkhorn's rate is \$17.00, but the City underwrites part of the cost, so the residents pay only \$16.00 per month.

The City received the new net construction increase from the state and it was .065. Staff is still waiting for the final assessed value of the City. The state has not sent out the manufacturing assessed value as yet.

Adjournment

Kupsik/Kordus motion to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Motion carried 4 to 0.

/s/ Dennis Jordan, City Administrator

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED
BY THE FINANCE, LICENSE & REGULATION COMMITTEE**