

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 8, 2014
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Mayor Jean
Deputy Mayor Varney
Councilor Keans
Councilor Walker
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Larochelle

Members Absent

Councilor Torr

Other Councilors Present

Councilor Hamaan
Councilor Collins
Councilor Gray
Councilor Gates

Others Present

City Manager Fitzpatrick
Deputy City Manager Cox
Police Chief Allen
Carol Granfield, MRI
Risa Kennedy, Lilac Estates
Ann Marie Callahan, Lilac Estates
human

MINUTES

1] Call to Order

Mayor Jean called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

2] Public Input

Mayor Jean invited the public to address the Committee regarding any issue of City business.

Mr. human addressed the Committee regarding the agenda item to purchase tablet computers for City Councilors.

Specifically, Mr. human suggested the use of open source software.

3] Old Business

3.1. Arena Capital Projects Funding

Mayor Jean stated that this issue was referred to the Finance Committee during the fiscal year 2015 budget deliberations of the Council.

Councilor Varney requested that the Arena Commission as well as Director Chris Bowlen be invited to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss the issue. He also stated that the City should look at having the Buildings and Grounds department assume the facilities maintenance and capital projects supervision of the Arena facility. Councilor Varney also suggested that the Council consider combining the Arena and Recreation boards.

Mayor Jean decided this item would be held in Committee until the September 9, 2014 meeting with the Arena Commission and Mr. Bowlen invited to attend.

3.2 Unspent Bridge Project Bond Proceeds

After a brief discussion of alternatives, Mayor Jean determined that this item would be held in Committee for future discussion.

4] New Business

4.1 Non-Union Classification and Wage Study

Ms. Carol Granfield from Municipal Resources Incorporated presented her report and analysis regarding the City's non-unionized positions. This included a review of how these positions are classified within pay ranges as well as the lower and upper limits of the pay ranges.

Councilor Larochelle was pleased that MRI was recommending re-inserting previously removed ranges that have no positions in them.

Councilor Varney clarified that MRI was recommending adjusting the pay ranges annually based upon changes in the consumer price index.

Councilor Collins pondered the fact that Concord with a similar population as Rochester has a budget that is more than \$50 million greater.

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to recommend to the full Council that the report and its recommendation from MRI be adopted by the full Council and incorporated into the City's "Merit Plan." Councilor Varney provided a second to the motion which was then **ADOPTED** unanimously by a voice vote.

4.2 Monarch School Permit Fees

After a brief discussion, the Committee took no action on this issue.

4.3 Lilac City Elderly Exemption Water and Sewer Request

Ms. Risa Kennedy of the Hynes Group (owners of Lilac City Estates) addressed the Committee. Ms. Kennedy explained that individual water meters were being installed in the Lilac City mobile home park and residents would soon be billed for their individual water usage. As part of this project, the owners of the park seek to be able to extend the City's reduced water and sewer rates to the residents who qualify for elderly exemptions for property tax purposes.

After some discussion, Councilor Larochelle **MOVED** to refer this issue to the Utility Advisory Board for review and recommendation. Councilor Varney provided a second to the motion which was then **ADOPTED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Jean recognized Ann Marie Callahan, a resident of Lilac City mobile home park. Ms. Callahan indicated she was representing the elderly of the park and seeks to have the City extend the April 15th deadline to apply for an elderly exemption. Mayor Jean explained that this is a statutory deadline imposed by the state and, therefore, the City Council could not grant her request.

4.4 Trustees of the Trust Fund

Mayor Jean explained that it was recently discovered that RSA 31:33 requires the annual report of the Trustees of the Trust Funds to be published in the Annual Town Report. Several councilors expressed a desire to know more about the work of this City board. Mayor Jean directed that the Trustees of the Trust Fund be invited to the October Finance Committee Meeting.

4.5 Tablet Computers for City Council

Mayor Jean explained that he had placed this item on the agenda and that he envisions the providing of tablet computers to all City Councilors as a means to address right-to-know law issues, consistency of information among Councilors and reducing the burden upon City staff who need to disseminate information to the Council.

Councilors Varney, Larochelle and Gray expressed a desire to continue using their own personal computers. Councilor Keans expressed a desire to remain working with hard copy materials. Mayor Jean and Councilor Walker expressed an interest in receiving a City issued device.

Mayor Jean determined that the Committee concensus was that tablet computers should be supplied to only those Councilors who wished to have one.

5] Finance Director's Report

Mayor Jean asked the Committee if Deputy City Manager Cox had adequately addressed the concerns about the construction manager arrangement at the arena. Councilor Varney stated that his only observation is that the scope of the work did not seem to call for the need for an outside construction manager.

6] Monthly Financial Statements

There was no discussion on the Financial Statements.

7] Other

There were no items for discussion.

8] Adjournment

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting. Councilor Varney provided a second to the motion which was **ADOPTED** by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blaine M. Cox
Deputy City Manager

BMC:sam