

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: October 10, 2017
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: City Council Chambers
31 Wakefield Street
Rochester, New Hampshire

Committee members present were: Mayor McCarley, Deputy Mayor Varney, Councilor Hamann, Councilor Gray, Councilor Lauterborn, Councilor Keans and Councilor Torr. Other City Councilors present: Councilor Barnett and Councilor Willis. City staff present were: City Manager Fitzpatrick, Deputy City Manager Cox, Police Chief Toussaint, Deputy Police Chief Boudreau, Chief Assessor Rice and Senior Accountant Sullivan. Others present: Chairperson Marchionni of the Riverwalk Committee as well as Utility Advisory Board members Libby (Chairperson), Sanders, Barnes, Turner and Boudreau.

Agenda & Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor McCarley called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Public Input

There were no members of the public that addressed the Committee.

3. Unfinished Business

There were no Unfinished Business items before the Committee.

4. New Business

4.1 Riverwalk Funding Request

The Riverwalk Committee Chairperson, Stacey Marchionni appeared before the Finance Committee and reported that the Riverwalk Committee was seeking funds from the City to retain the services of CLD engineers to update the Riverwalk Master Plan. This update would then allow the Riverwalk group to apply for grant funding. The Mayor indicated that this item would be kept in Committee for further discussion.

4.2 Utility Advisory Board Water & Sewer Rates Recommendations

The Utility Advisory Board recommended to the Finance Committee that water rates be increased by 7% and that sewer rates be increased by 5% and that said rate adjustments be made effective on December 1, 2017. The members of the Utility Advisory Board reviewed for the Finance Committee their deliberations leading up to their rate recommendations. Senior Accountant Sullivan, using an excel spreadsheet, demonstrated several rate change scenarios for the Finance Committee. After a lengthy discussion, **Deputy Mayor Varney moved to recommend to the full City Council that water user rates be increased by 5% and that sewer user rates be increased by 3.5%. The motion received a second and was adopted** by a voice vote.

4.3 Taser Purchase

Police Chief Toussaint reviewed with the Finance Committee his recommendation to enter in to the Taser 60 program. **Councilor Hamann moved to recommend to the full City Council that the Police Department be authorized to enter in to the Taser 60 program. The motion received a second and was adopted** by a voice vote.

4.4 Internet Crimes Against Children Funding Opportunity

Police Chief Toussaint informed the Finance Committee that the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force commander has offered to reimburse Rochester for the detective from Rochester Police Department assigned to the ICAC task force. Specifically, the City would be reimbursed for this detective's salary and related benefits costs in an amount up to \$76,000 for the time he spends working as part of the task force. **Councilor Gray moved to recommend to the full City Council that the City accept the ICAC reimbursement funds and appropriate said funds to the Rochester Police Department. The motion received a second and was adopted** by a voice vote.

4.5 Elderly Exemptions Discussion

City Councilor Barnett recommended to the Finance Committee that the City Council consider increasing the Elderly Exemption amounts as well as the income limitations. The Mayor indicated that this item would be held in committee and directed staff to

provide the Finance Committee with a report and analysis of the Elderly Exemptions issue.

4.6 All Veterans' Tax Credit Discussion

Chief Assessor Rice appeared before the Finance Committee and reviewed the written report he provided for the meeting packet. After a lengthy discussion, the Mayor indicated that this item would be held in committee.

5. Finance Director's Report

5.1 Monthly Financial Report

There was no discussion regarding the monthly financial statements.

6. Other

There were no other items brought before the Committee.

7. Adjournment

Councilor Hamann moved to adjourn the meeting and a second was received. The motion was adopted by a voice vote at 8:20 P.M.