

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 10, 2015
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

Committee Present

Mayor Jean
Deputy Mayor Varney
Councilor Keans
Councilor Larochele
Councilor Lauterborn
Councilor Walker
Councilor Torr

Others Present

Councilor Gates
Councilor Gray
Councilor Bogan
Councilor Collins

Staff Present

City Manager Fitzpatrick
Deputy City Manager Cox
HR Manager Hoyt
Police Chief Allen
Welfare Director Marsh

Trustees of Trust Fund

Dave Ouellette
Robert Pallas

MINUTES

1] Call to Order

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

2] Public Input

There was no public input.

3] Old Business

3.1 Bridging the Gap Coordinator

Mayor Jean outlined how a leasing company has submitted a proposal to lease an employee to the City to serve as the Bridging the Gaps Coordinator at a 55% mark up.

Councilor Lauterborn questioned why the company had referenced Medicaid as being covered by their mark-up and why it was not certain how quickly the Affordable Care Act would require the provision of health insurance coverage.

Chief Allen informed the Committee that if the City covered the cost of the coordinator before the grant is approved that the City would not be eligible for reimbursement for this cost from the federal grant program.

Chief Allen also described how the person being informally considered for the position was not recruited and has not been interviewed. He described how information gathering on the Dover program made him aware that this person was

possibly available and is very qualified. He had an initial conversation with her and she has expressed some interest in our program.

Councilor Varney MOVED to recommend to the full Council that the City fund the Bridging the Gap Coordinator position for up to six months. Councilor Keans provided a SECOND to the motion which was ADOPTED by a voice vote.

3.2 Budget Calendar

There was no discussion and no action on this item.

3.3 Trust Funds Reporting

David Ouellette and Robert Pallas, two of the three Trustees of the Trust Funds, were present and addressed the Committee. Mr. Ouellette and Mr. Pallas indicated that they had no issues with the Council's adoption of the provisions of RSA 34:16, II. In fact, they had already spoken with Terry Knowles of the New Hampshire Department of Justice regarding how to implement the provisions of the statute.

The Trustees also informed the Committee that they meet regularly with Charter Trust which is the firm that manages the City's investments.

Councilor Varney reminded the Trustees of the need to post the Trustees' meeting minutes on the City's website. He also asked the Trustees if they would want the City's ordinances amended to add two more members to the current three member make-up of the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

Trustee Ouellette responded that such a change would be welcomed.

3.4 City Hall Annex Contractor

Mayor Jean informed the Committee that Fenton Groen of Groen Construction has agreed to look at the City Hall Annex building and offer his thoughts on rehabilitating the structure. He would not charge the City for this. Mayor Jean also indicated he would be reaching out to Bud Meader of Budel Construction. Once a meeting and tour of the Annex Building is set to occur with these two contractors, the date and time will be made public for those who wish to attend.

4] New Business

4.1 Welfare Guidelines

Todd Marsh, City of Rochester Welfare Director, was present and addressed the Committee providing an overview of the amendments he is proposing to the City's

Welfare Guidelines. He indicated that the changes being proposed conform to the dictates of RSA 165.

Mayor Jean commended Mr. Marsh on the effort to update the current guidelines.

Councilor Lauterborn MOVED to recommend to the full Council that the Welfare Guidelines be ADOPTED as written. Councilor Walker provided a SECOND to the motion which was ADOPTED by a unanimous voice vote.

4.2 Mayor and Council Stipends

Council Torr stated that his reason for bringing this item up for discussion was primarily to address his belief that the Mayor's stipend was too low in light of how much time and effort was devoted by Mayor Jean in recent years.

Councilor Walker stated that after reviewing the stipend data from other communities, it appears that the stipends here in Rochester are in line with other communities, however, the payment for meeting attendances needs to be looked at.

Councilor Lauterborn expressed her belief that the stipend for committee chairs listed in the data provided is inaccurate.

City Manager Fitzpatrick shared his experience from other communities in which this issue was addressed by the creation of a Mayoral Committee of 3 citizens to study the issue and report findings and recommendations to the Council.

Councilor Walker suggested that other boards and committees be looked at as well, such as land use boards, assessing boards, etc.

Councilor Gates suggested that any stipends awarded should be based upon meeting attendance.

City Manager Fitzpatrick also shared that some communities host a "Thank You" dinner for their boards and committees.

Mayor Jean concluded the discussion indicating that he will form a three person committee to study the issue and make recommendations.

5] Finance Director's Report

Councilor Larochelle referenced the low 2.36% bond rates recently received and suggested that the City look at "bonding ahead" for immediate future projects before interest rates increase.

6] Monthly Financial Reports

There was no discussion on this item and no actions taken.

- 7] Councilor Collins noted that Pi Day occurs on March 14th during which at 09:26:53 A.M. and P.M. the date and time will represent the first ten digits of the mathematical formula of π .

Councilor Varney asked the City Manager about a Hospitality Study being conducted. The City Manager indicated that this is a staff project.

- 8] Councilor Walker **MOVED** to enter Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for Personnel. Councilor Larochelle provided a **SECOND** to the motion which was **ADOPTED** by a unanimous roll call vote.

The Finance Committee entered Non-Public session at 8:50 P.M.

Mayor Jean **MOVED** to exit Non-Public session and to seal the minutes indefinitely. Councilor Walker provided a **SECOND** to the motion which was then **ADOPTED** by a unanimous voice vote.

The Committee exited non-public session at 9:35 P.M.

9] Adjournment

Councilor Walker **MOVED** to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting. Councilor Lauterborn provided a **SECOND** to the motion which was **ADOPTED** by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blaine M. Cox
Deputy City Manager

BMC:sam