

**COMMON COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 20, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Finance Committee met on Thursday, August 20, 2019. Megan Wiles called the meeting to order at 8:22 a.m. with Christopher Jensen and Rick Taylor present. Greg O'Connor was absent.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Controller Jeff Spalding, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Chief Accountant Heather Trexler, and Administrative Assistant Jacqueline Thompson.

**Additional Appropriation for Parking Kiosks**

Mr. Spalding stated when ordinance #36-08-19 was introduced at the last Council meeting, he did not realize that one item had not yet been resolved. He stated action was taken to fund sign posts, but not the signs themselves. He stated he has received an estimate from Planning Director Sarah Reed, so he will request that the ordinance be amended before adoption to include funding for the signs in addition to the kiosks. He stated the signs will cost approximately \$12,000.00 and will also be paid from the Parking Meter Fund. Ms. Johnson stated the Street Department will pour the concrete bases for the kiosks and asked if that will also be charged to the Parking Meter Fund. Mr. Spalding stated it would be his preference, but it is not mandatory. The committee agreed it would be most appropriate to charge the Parking Meter Fund. Mr. Taylor stated it would be best to visit this issue once; it should not be brought before the Council a second time. Mr. Jensen agreed and stated if firm amounts cannot be verified before Tuesday's meeting, the ordinance will be postponed.

There was a brief discussion concerning maintenance for the parking lot behind Kirk Hardware. Ms. Johnson stated they plan to coat the parking lot with a product called Liquid Road, which was used with good results in the Brighton Knoll subdivision.

Ms. Johnson left the meeting.

**Refunding of COIT Revenue Bonds of 2009**

Mr. Spalding stated there is an opportunity to refinance the COIT Revenue Bonds of 2009 for an estimated total savings of \$347,018.53. He stated he will keep the committee apprised of the process as it moves forward.

**High AV Growth Levy Appeal & Cash Reserves**

Mr. Spalding stated he will begin the appeal process recommended by Financial Consultant Michael Reuter in his revenue forecast presentation. Mr. Spalding stated the process is not automatic and must be approved by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). He stated he plans to manage the City's cash reserves to strengthen the appeal application by creating reserve funds or moving cash to existing reserve funds for property and casualty insurance losses, sick time payout to departing employees, other post-employment employee

benefits, and/or a major construction fund. He stated he is researching the best options. The committee approved of the idea. Ms. Wiles stated a preference for moving more cash to a major construction fund, considering the capital projects that the City is currently planning. Mr. Spalding noted these reserve funds will not only help the City's appeal to the DLGF, but will create a favorable perception with credit rating agencies as well.

### **Property Tax Rate Target**

Mr. Spalding stated if the Council would like to begin managing the City's tax rate in 2020, short-term debt will need to be issued before December 31, 2019. He stated he will need a decision soon, as well as the tax rate the Council chooses to target. He stated this approach is very flexible; if the City issues long-term debt, short-term debt will not be issued, and if Assessed Value drops and the tax rate rises, no debt will be issued. The committee agreed it is a good approach. Ms. Wiles stated she wants to know how many homes will be affected by a new tax rate so that the Council can gauge its impact on the community. Mr. Taylor stated it is important to be able to show taxpayers where the short-term debt will be used. Mr. Jensen stated it is important for the Council to understand this approach and be able to answer questions.

### **City Master Debt Summary**

Mr. Spalding displayed a spreadsheet that has been created to organize virtually all information concerning the City's debts. He stated the spreadsheet has already proven useful. He stated his goal is to upload the information to OpenGov so that reports can be generated for the Council to view by logging in. Ms. Trexler noted the spreadsheet is saved to the cloud, so it will be more secure and accessible than if it were on a City server.

### **Fiscal (and Related) Actions on Council Meeting Agenda – August 27<sup>th</sup>**

- *Ordinance #36-08-19 (Additional Appropriation for Parking Kiosks) – Second Reading*

Mr. Spalding stated an amended version of the ordinance will be presented.

Ms. Wiles stated yesterday the Downtown District Committee agreed to recommend \$75,000.00 from the Downtown Development Fund to be used for Seminary Park improvements. She requested that an appropriation transfer be added to the agenda.

### **Claims Docket Review**

The committee recommended approval of the claims.

### **Review of Agenda Addendum**

Mr. Spalding stated OpenGov is working correctly, and the budget process is progressing. He stated departments are still working through their budgets.

He stated he is checking references for Budget/Financial Analyst candidates, and he hopes to make an offer by the end of the week.

He stated the contract with Policy Analytics was renewed by the Board of Public Works and Safety last week, and data is being delivered to them. He distributed a project timeline.

He stated work on contracting for Internal Controls Standards is set to resume in September or October, once the budget is set. He stated work on a travel reimbursement policy will most likely be rolled into the Internal Controls contract.

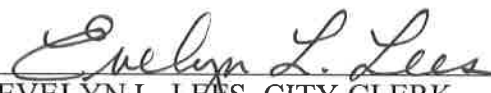
He stated once he has funded the cash reserve accounts he explained earlier, he will revisit using a cash advisory service. He observed that interest rates are so low currently that a service would not produce much more interest than a checking account.

**Other Business at Discretion of the Chair**

There was no further business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

  
MEGAN G. WILES, COMMITTEE CHAIR

  
EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK