

**COMMON COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 7, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 7, 2019. Megan Wiles called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with Christopher Jensen and Greg O'Connor present. Rick Taylor was absent.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, Councilor-elect Pete Schwartz, Councilor-elect Aaron Smith, Controller Jeff Spalding, Budget/Finance Analyst Sam Beres, and Chief Accountant Heather Trexler.

**Budget Modification Requests**

Mr. Spalding stated some of the budget modification requests are fairly complicated.

**Seminary Park:** Mr. Spalding explained the Downtown District Committee approved payment of design costs for the Seminary Park renovation in 2018, but the funds were never appropriated. He stated if they had been appropriated, they could have been encumbered to 2019. Since they were not, an additional appropriation is needed, which will be authorized by ordinance #47-11-19.

**Information Technology:** Mr. Spalding stated appropriation transfers are needed to cover the cost of a contract with Sondhi Solutions, which has begun providing IT services for the City. He stated \$50,457.00 is being transferred from the IT payroll budget, and the rest will come from underspending for payroll in the Fire Department budget. Transfer TA-18-19 will fund the contract for November and December. He stated the 2020 budget was set before the contract with Sondhi Solutions was in place, but there is expected to be a cost savings.

Mr. Jensen addressed questions the Council may have about engaging Sondhi Solutions. He stated with his full support, the Administration hired a firm to conduct an audit of the IT department and found very large discrepancies. He stated the decision was made to outsource IT to save money and provide more up-to-date and secure service to the City. He stated three employees were offered positions with Sondhi; two accepted, and one transferred to a position in the Police Department. He stated Sondhi will have staff in house. He noted that all City employees received an email explaining the change, and while it was a hard decision to make, he believes it will be best for the City in the long term. Mr. O'Connor agreed that the change is for the best and will provide the latest technology.

**Street Capital Improvements:** Mr. Spalding stated appropriations for replacement of Downtown streetlights and Downtown traffic signal design total \$320,000.00, but only \$300,000.00 is available in the Downtown Development Fund for appropriation transfers. He stated ordinance #49-11-19 authorizes an additional appropriation in the Downtown Development Fund for the remaining \$20,000.00. He noted these amounts concern appropriations, not cash balances. He explained there is cash in the fund that is not yet appropriated.

Mr. Spalding explained over \$2 million is needed for the Pleasant Street Phase I design, so ordinance #48-11-19 will authorize an additional appropriation of \$1,220,000.00 in the MVH Fund. He stated \$800,000.00 cash will be transferred from the General Fund to the Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) Fund in cash transfer TC-01-19, and appropriation transfer TA-16-19 will transfer \$800,000.00 in the MVH Fund from the 400 expense series to the 300 series.

Mr. Jensen noted that these appropriations are part of the \$2.75 million the Council designated for Pleasant Street a few years ago. Mr. Spalding agreed. He noted these appropriations are carrying out the Council's directive. Ms. Wiles noted these are housekeeping clean-up measures from discussions in previous years. She asked if the same procedures will be needed going forward. Mr. Spalding replied he does not know of any further clean-up that is needed. Mr. Jensen stated beginning next year, projects brought to the Finance Committee will be approved by the Administration and will already have a funding plan in place.

### **Fiscal (and Related) Actions on Council Meeting Agenda – October 15<sup>th</sup>**

- *Ord. #47-11-19 – Additional Appropriation to fund Seminary Park Design (Downtown Development Fund)*
- *Cash Transfer #TC-01-19 – General Fund to MVH Fund transfer to fund Pleasant St. Design Phase I*
- *Ord. #48-11-19 – Additional Appropriation to fund Pleasant St. Design Phase I (MVH Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-16-19 – Transfer to fund Pleasant St. Design Phase I (MVH Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-17-19 – Transfer to fund Downtown Streetlight Replacement and Downtown Traffic Signal Design (Downtown Development Fund)*
- *Ord. #49-11-19 – Additional Appropriation to fund Downtown Streetlight Replacement (Downtown Development Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-18-19 – Transfer to fund IT Consulting Services (General Fund)*

These items were discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **Claims Docket Review**

The committee recommended approval of the claims.

Mr. Jensen left the meeting.

### **Review of Agenda Addendum**

Mr. O'Connor asked if Mr. Spalding has moved forward with a cash advisory service. Mr. Spalding replied he stays in contact with 1<sup>st</sup> Source Bank, but interest rates have been so low that


it is not a priority. Ms. Trexler noted the City's money market account earns approximately \$80,000.00 per month.

**Other Business at Discretion of the Chair**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

  
MEGAN G. WILES, COMMITTEE CHAIR

  
EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK