

**COMMON COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 23, 2020**

The City of Noblesville Council Finance Committee met on Thursday, January 23, 2020. Greg O'Connor called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. with Mike Davis present. Darren Peterson arrived at 8:20 a.m. Megan Wiles was absent.

Also present were Deputy Clerk Charlene Cummings, Street Commissioner Patty Johnson, Assistant Planning Director Caleb Gutshall, Controller Jeff Spalding, Budget/Financial Analyst Sam Beres, Chief Accountant Heather Trexler, Administrative Assistant Jacqueline Thompson, and Kim Bowling of the Friends of Central Pool. Public Safety Director Chad Knecht participated by telephone.

**Supplemental Support for Friends of Central Pool**

Mr. O'Connor amended the agenda to address this topic first. The history of ownership of the pool was reviewed. Ms. Bowling stated the Friends of Central Pool was formed in the 1990s to keep the pool from closing. She stated various groups who use the pool (swim clubs, water polo clubs, etc.) all volunteer to help open and close the pool at the beginning and end of the season, which is the major cost savings for pool operations. She stated they recently took over Morse Beach as well to keep it open, since the County refused to take it over. Mr. Spalding explained the Friends of Central Pool reached out to him because of the timing of the needed funds. He noted sometimes timing can affect the method of funding. Ms. Bowling stated the pool needs to be filled in April, so major repairs need to be completed before the pool can be filled and then opened on Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Spalding stated the request is for \$500,000.00; he asked how and when that amount will be spent. Ms. Bowling replied there are a few repairs that could be completed after the pool is open, but most of them must be complete before the pool opens. She stated major repairs are needed for the showers, as well as concrete work, ladders, and steps. Mr. Peterson asked how much revenue has fallen because of these issues, and asked if the repairs are expected to increase revenue. Ms. Bowling replied two years ago new loungers were purchased with the proceeds of Brew Fest, and patrons were very excited. She stated she expects the repairs to immediately result in more new memberships. Mr. Peterson asked what pools compete with Central Pool for patrons. Ms. Bowling stated the Monon Center is the main competition. She noted the Cicero Pool is also nearby, but it has also had issues and was closed for a few weeks last year. There was a discussion concerning accountability for the funding. Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Davis supported the request. Mr. Spalding noted his main concern is the amount needed and when to pay the request. Ms. Bowling noted the Friends of Central Pool are seeking sponsorships and are soliciting more bids in an effort to minimize the amount needed from the City. Mr. O'Connor stated the committee will work with Mr. Spalding to bring the request to the full Council.

Ms. Bowling left the meeting.

### **Budget Error Correction – Street Department Payroll**

Mr. Beres stated funding for an existing position was inadvertently omitted from the Street Department budget during the new budget process. He stated a transfer from the Motor Vehicle Highway (MVH) Fund contingency will correct the error. Mr. Spalding explained the budget was entered into a Workforce Planning Module by position. Mr. Beres noted the personnel part of the budget was a collaboration between OFA, Human Resources, and the departments. Ms. Johnson stated the error was a data entry error due to the new process. She stated it has never happened before. Mr. Spalding stated the correction is necessary to have accurate budget and spending data. Mr. Beres noted the 2021 budget will be affected in OpenGov if this error is not corrected. The committee agreed the error should be corrected.

Ms. Johnson left the meeting.

### **Budget Realignment for 2020 Transition – GIS Realignment**

Mr. Beres stated three GIS positions have moved from the IT Department to the Planning Department, both physically and functionally. He stated funding for these positions requires a transfer in the 100 and 300 series. Mr. Spalding noted the transfer is budget neutral, but because the positions were moved in 2019 after the 2020 budget had been approved, the transfer had to wait until 2020. He stated there will be other similar transfers as well.

Mr. Gutshall left the meeting.

### **1% Pay Adjustment Allocation**

Mr. Beres stated a four percent general pay increase was funded by a three percent increase in the budget, while one percent remained in contingency. He stated in December, it was decided to include the additional one percent pay increase for all employees. He stated the transfer moves the amount from the contingency to the budget. Mr. Spalding explained the split was originally affected by rank restructuring in the Police and Fire Departments. He stated the one percent might have been used for merit-based increases, but eventually it was included in the general pay increase. He noted the structure may be used for individual increases in the future.

### **Hamilton County Public Safety Communications LIT**

Mr. Knecht joined the meeting by telephone. He stated he recently attended the meeting of the Hamilton County Public Safety Communications Executive Committee. He stated discussions are ongoing concerning how the Local Income Tax (LIT) will be spent. He stated no decisions have been made other than what is already public: leases for emergency radios will revert from the municipalities to the LIT fund, and there are discussions on how to be fair and consistent in buying radios for each agency. He stated funds will be used to build the secondary communications site, and to build a new primary communications center site. He stated the committee is preparing documents concerning what costs will be eligible for LIT funding to share with the various units in the county. He stated Noblesville is interested in funding for

police body cameras and the storage of videos. He stated there is a strong case for standardized storage of and access to the videos throughout the county. Mr. O'Connor asked for an explanation of the structure of the committee, how it works, and what Noblesville could be eligible for. He expressed concern that the committee is too interested in using the funds to build facilities. Mr. Knecht replied there is a committee dedicated to allocating funds to agencies equitably, and there is another committee to decide what types of uses are eligible for funding. He stated his concern is that major needs are funded, rather than investing in the newest technology. He stated his greatest concern is the effective, efficient use of the funds county-wide, while still advocating for Noblesville to make sure needs are met. He stated he will contact the County director to learn the names of those on the committees and their responsibilities. He stated the committee meets monthly, so he will provide more details soon.

Mr. Knecht left the meeting.

### **Annual Capital Improvement Bond Projects**

Mr. Spalding provided a list of projects that will be funded by the short term General Obligation bond that was sold at the end of December. He noted there is \$136,200.00 that is still unallocated, which could be used toward the request from the Friends of Central Pool. He explained the bond proceeds can be spent without any additional Council action, so the list is for information only. Mr. Beres noted the projects are already included in the various department budgets, with some of the funding to come from the bond proceeds.

### **Update: Hamilton County LIT Re-Allocation**

Mr. Spalding stated State Representative Todd Huston introduced a bill in the House of Representatives again to correct the distribution inequity, but Fishers and Carmel are continuing to negotiate. He stated Rep. Huston has tabled the bill during the negotiations. Mr. Spalding stated the goal is to correct the inequity between Fishers and Carmel without damaging Noblesville and Westfield. Mr. O'Connor expressed concern that one of the proposed solutions would harm Noblesville after several years. He stated it is important to monitor the situation.

### **Update: Post-YE Budget Adjustments; Encumbrance Carry Forward Resolution**

Mr. Beres stated the Council will receive a report of the year-end budget transfers at the February 11 meeting. He stated the largest transfer was \$25,000.00. Ms. Trexler stated they are still in the process of closing out 2019, so the exact amount of the encumbrances carried to 2020 is not yet known. She stated the encumbrances will be finalized soon and will be reported to the Council.

### **Update: Authorization for Routine Budget Adjustments**

Mr. Spalding stated because other issues have required OFA's attention, they are postponing discussion of the authorization for routine budget adjustments. He stated they will bring the proposal back to the committee for discussion as soon as possible.

**Fiscal (and Related) Actions on Council Meeting Agenda – January 28**

- *Ord. #01-01-20 – Additional Appropriation to properly align budget with lease rental payment obligation for the Building Authority Refunding Bonds of 2014, Series B (DS/Bldg Auth Refund Bonds 2014B Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-02-20 – GIS Realignment (General Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-03-20 – Street Equipment Operator Position Budget Error (MVH Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-04-20 A-D – 1% Pay Adjustment Allocation (General, MVH, Parks, and Parking Meter Funds)*

These items were discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Claims Docket Review**

The committee recommended approval of the claims.

**Review of Agenda Addendum**

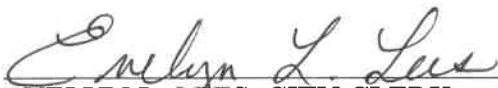
There was no update to the addendum.

**Other Business at Discretion of the Chair**

There was a brief discussion regarding maintenance at the golf courses, and how it can be incorporated into the five year capital plan. Mr. Davis argued strongly for the City to increase its yearly contribution to the Friends of Central Pool, in order to prevent periodic emergency requests.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

  
GREG O'CONNOR, COMMITTEE CHAIR

  
EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK