

CITY OF WASHINGTON WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

TO: Mayor Manier and City Council
FROM: Finance & Personnel Committee
DATE: May 18, 2018
SUBJECT: Report of Proceedings of Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Held on Monday,
March 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brucks at 4:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brucks, Mayor Manier, Alderman Cobb

Also Present: City Administrator Culotta, Controller Baxter, City Treasurer Dingledine, Public Works
Director Andrews, Chief of Police McCoy, Deputy Chief Stevens

AGENDA

1. Non-member Alderman wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item - None.
2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item – John Amdall distributed the attached comments from he and his wife opposing the proposed contract for a Water and Sewer Rate Study.
3. Business Items

A. FY18-19 Personnel Staffing – Police Department

Chief McCoy and Deputy Chief Stevens discussed their request for additional personnel, including two new sworn positions of Community Resources Officer (permanent) and Drug Enforcement Officer (at least 2 year commitment to MEG but could be temporary position). Following discussion, Alderman Cobb made a motion, seconded by Mayor Manier to recommend moving forward with the Community Resource Officer for FY18-19. Motion carried.

McCoy and Stevens also requested consideration for creation a Police Support Specialist position staffed by 1-2 full-time and possibly some part-time employees. This would occur after the dispatch center was decommissioned and transitioned to TC3. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to wait for budget review with the City Council to discuss further. No action taken.

B. Personnel Manual

The Personnel Manual has been updated by Davis and Campbell by taking the existing manual and incorporating all adopted policies that weren't included, as well as including required language for new federal and state personnel laws. The manual is still being reviewed by Staff. Committee requested Staff continue review and bring back to Committee of the Whole for discussion.

C. Water/Sewer Rate Study

Staff started discussing this last year and funds were included in the budget. Committee agreed for Request for Qualifications to be issued last fall. RFQs have been received and reviewed by Staff as well as some members of both Finance and Personnel and Public Works Committees. A similar study was done back in 2005 for Sewer fees and began as an in-house study but because of resistance from developers, a 3rd party was brought in for an objective view point.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that they were not in favor of the study and believed that Staff could provide the analysis needed to determine an appropriate rate structure.

D. Loan Refinancing

The Committee discussed different options for the refinancing of the loan on the Washington 223 property. City Administrator Culotta provided a comparison of each of these including taxable and tax-exempt offerings at both local banks and on the open market. Both 10 and 15-year terms were discussed as well as loans of different amounts.

Following discussion, the Finance and Personnel Committee agreed to go with a taxable loan so that revenue wouldn't be limited on the property. Staff was directed to obtain a quote from MCB for 10 and 15-year terms at \$1 and \$2 million loan amounts.

4. Other Business – None.
5. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee Comments

March 19, 2018

Topic: decision to hire a consultant for utility rate study for a fee of \$25,000

COMMENTS:

Appreciate the City of Washington history of fiscal responsibility

Consultants can be of value if they deliver impactful deliverables not otherwise available

Have not read the proposals

Deeply concerned if it ever looks like a consultant might be "borrowing our watch to tell us the time" (as frequently happens)

We expect that the staff has already developed a budget that suggests a rate increase is needed.

QUESTION:

How would the outcome be any different if we do not hire the consultant and if the city staff develops a budget, a recommendation on a rate increase, and a comparison of the rates in Washington to other nearby communities and similar sized communities?

NOTE: in the final analysis, the City of Washington will be judged by how the rates compare to other communities.

REQUEST:

If Finance Committee decides to proceed with hiring the consultant, please include in the memo to the full City Council a very clear statement on both:

- What the consultant can provide that City Staff cannot provide?
- How the report from the consultant will make any difference in the outcome of the rate increase motion passed by the City Council?