

CITY OF WASHINGTON WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

TO: Mayor Manier and City Council
FROM: Finance & Personnel Committee
DATE: December 4, 2015
SUBJECT: Report of Proceedings of the Special Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Held on Monday, November 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brucks at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Brucks, Mayor Manier, Alderman Butler

Also Present: Controller Baxter, Treasurer Dingledine, Alderman Moss, Alderman Gee, Alderman Brownfield

AGENDA

1. Non-member Alderman wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item – Alderman Moss asked if the City would be interested in being a sponsor in the Wreaths Across America program to take place on December 12, 2015 at the Cemetery. They are trying to increase attendance and as such, sponsoring an ad for the paper may be the best way for the City to support the event. Ads will also be in the Chamber newsletter and the City website. The Committee generally agreed on \$500 in support through an ad in the paper.
2. Citizens wishing to be heard on a non-agenda item – None.
3. Business Items
 - A. Sales Tax Revenue – Controller Baxter indicated that the sales tax numbers for October show a pretty significant decrease in Municipal and Home Rule Sales Tax. She determined upon inquiry to the Department of Revenue that errors on previous returns resulted in a one-time correction for sales tax distributions. When trying to find out the amount and timeframe of the error, Baxter was told that no further information was available because the City had not approved a Reciprocal Agreement for Exchange of Information as the current one on file had been deemed to expire December 31, 2014. A resolution will be drafted to approve the Agreement at the next City Council meeting.
 - B. 2015 Tax Levy Proposals – Controller Baxter reviewed the different tax levy options with the Committee. She indicated that the assessed valuation had increased but to take full advantage of the increase, the overall tax levy would increase by more than 5% necessitating a public hearing. This is true in almost every case, including when the tax rate stays the same as the current year. Following discussion, the Finance & Personnel Committee agreed that only Option, 1 which would increase the General Fund levy back to the pre-tornado level or Option 2, which would maintain the current tax rate should be offered to the Committee of the Whole when considering a recommendation for the tax levy.
4. Other Business – None.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.