

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF SUNSET HILLS, MISSOURI HELD ON MONDAY July 12, 2021

Meeting convened at 5:31 p.m.

Place of meeting: City Hall Public Works conference room.

The Finance Committee of the City of Sunset Hills, Missouri met in open session. Chairman, Alderman Joe Stewart, Alderman Fred Daues, Member Mike Fitzgerald, Member Jeff Camilleri, Member Mike Sawicki, Finance Director, Susanna Messmer, City Administrator, Brittany Gillett, were personally in attendance. Absent: Member Mark Colombo.

Approval of Minutes

Member Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021 Finance Committee meeting. Alderman Daues seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Proposed additional of restricted fund for Proposition P revenues

Member Camilleri asked how much the overall revenue from Proposition P was. Alderman Stewart replied about \$450,000 a year. Member Camilleri then asked how it compared to the expenses tied to it. Ms. Messmer stated the operating expenses, excluding employee benefits, were 2.8 million. Member Fitzgerald asked what the City debt obligations were. Ms. Messmer replied approximately one million a year. Member Fitzgerald stated he did not see a purpose for designating the funds. Alderman Daues stated Member Fitzgerald's point was well taken and that the proposed ordinance was being considered in order to ensure the funds were used on public safety items specifically, as explained to the voters, going forward. He stated the ordinance would ensure the funds would remain in place, when, in the future, committees and elected officials change. He stated this bill did not put additional hardship on staff because it would apply beginning January 1, 2022, not be retroactive to the existing money in the general fund.

Alderman Stewart explained it was a chance to earmark the funds for what the Board believed the intended purpose of Proposition P.

Member Camilleri asked if this would affect the budgeting process. Ms. Messmer answered yes, it would require the Board to designate what type of Public Safety expenditures would go into the fund.

Alderman Daues gave examples of items that would qualify for the Prop P funds and explained the purpose of the legislation was to make sure the Prop P funds were protected going forward.

Member Camilleri asked if the City would be increasing the expenditures by 450K to provide additional public safety items. Ms. Gillett explained the budget would not be increased by 450k annually, rather the funds would be used for existing budgeted expenditures.

Member Fitzgerald asked who would be doing the qualifying of expenditures. Ms. Messmer replied it would be the Board of Aldermen. Member Fitzgerald stated he agreed with that.

Member Sawicki asked how the funds would be allocated this year and what they were spent on. Ms. Messmer stated the funds are comingled in the general fund. Alderman Stewart stated that they wanted to separate the funds so that tracking expenditures was clear.

Member Sawicki asked how County Road funds were currently allocated. Ms. Messmer stated the revenue was a distinct source with expenditures based on budget, which has to relate to streets, maintenance and improvements.

She explained she allocated funds based on the percentage of time public works employees spent on streets. She stated it was a standard allocation applied to County Road using the percentages given to her by Public Works Director Bryson Baker. Member Sawicki asked if they were doing the same thing with the Proposition P funds. Ms. Messmer stated it would be the same thing if salaries were used.

Member Camilleri asked what account the first 450k of PD expenses would be pulled from. Ms. Messmer explained that the expenditures would be pro-rated over 12 months, there would not be extra money that was not approved by the budget. Ms. Messmer explained that the expenditures come from the Board of Aldermen, as well as the decision of what the fund balance should look like going forward, and what the fund policy was. Ms. Messmer explained the fund policy in place for the general fund. Member Sawicki asked if there was a policy for the County Road Fund. Ms. Messmer answered no and explained there was not a policy for any of the three restricted funds. Ms. Messmer stated she recommended having a policy for each fund.

Member Fitzgerald asked if there would be a separate budget for the Prop P funds, and stated he felt there should be. Member Camilleri stated the eligible expenses had to be defined.

Ms. Messmer gave examples of expenditures from the County Road fund and how eligible expenses were paid.

Alderman Stewart stated the committee only makes recommendations to the Board, and they could recommend approval of the bill with the stipulation of creating a separate budget for the Prop P funds.

Member Fitzgerald asked if Chief Dodge was aware of the requirement to define qualifying expenditures and oversight by the Finance Committee. Ms. Gillett confirmed, yes, he was aware.

There was lengthy discussion on the qualifying expenditures for Prop P and how other municipalities were spending their funds.

Member Sawicki re-read the statement that all income and expenditures from the Proposition P fund shall be separately stated and all budget material prepared and disseminated by the City.

Alderman Stewart stated this was the third version of this bill and it had numerous changes and inspections by the City Attorney to minimize any audit risk. He stated they felt this was a workable version to be presented to the Board of Alderman.

Member Fitzgerald asked for a description of qualifying expenditures. Alderman Daues cited examples of salaries, capital expenditures, cars, body cameras, firearms, and uniforms. Ms. Gillett stated the expenditures were specific to the Sunset Hills Police Department.

There was additional discussion in reference to how the funds would be allocated each year. Member Sawicki asked Ms. Messmer if the Finance department would provide recommendations for County Road and Prop P funds.

Ms. Messmer replied that she could comment on the appropriateness of the types of expenditures going in the funds, and she could make recommendations. She stated the point was to make sure the expenditures represent what the revenue was intended to purchase. Alderman Stewart stated he felt the intent of the Prop P fund was well defined. Ms. Gillett added they would come back with a fund balance policy for clarification.

Member Sawicki made a motion to recommend the Prop P fund segregation. Member Fitzgerald approved the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Medical Insurance forecasted costs for October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

Ms. Messmer reviewed the quotes provided by the existing insurance carrier, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. She stated they came back with a 5.1% increase. Ms. Messmer's recommendation was to stay with them for at least one more year. She stated this allowed the city to look at additional brokers next year and have more data to compare.

Alderman Daues asked about the premiums paid by members who were smokers versus non-smokers. Alderman Stewart stated we should look at other providers after this year to see if the City could get discounted rates.

Member Camilleri asked how these plans compared to other Cities. Ms. Gillett stated there was a survey with SLACMA that was being compiled and that she would share that information as soon as she had it.

Alderman Daues asked if it was legal to charge smokers more than non-smokers, even though the carrier is not charging the City the additional amount. He asked how the \$31 a month was calculated since it was not assessed by Anthem.

Ms. Messmer stated she would have to look into it since it was set up prior to her employment.

Member Sawicki made a motion to recommend Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for the City Health Insurance, Member Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Member Sawicki asked Ms. Messmer to find out how the \$31 fee was calculated for smoking employees.

General Discussion

Ms. Messmer distributed information on the proposed budget policy. Ms. Gillett stated it was good to have something in writing and that she was proposing a mid-year budget review that would include the Board of Aldermen and the Finance Committee. Ms. Gillett stated this was formalizing what is already generally practiced each year. The members reviewed the policy.

Alderman Daues asked Ms. Gillett to bring the committee up to date on the change in how the city moved funds from Parks/Storm and County Road to general fund, going back to 2017 through the current year.

Ms. Gillett stated maintenance and equipment were previously taken from the funds and that the City had shifted to paying salaries because of the stability of the expenses incurred. Member Fitzgerald asked if the salaries were qualifying expenditures. Ms. Gillett replied, yes, they were.

Alderman Daues reviewed previous eligible expenses from 2017-2019 and noted the difference in the qualifying expenditures. He asked for verification that one million dollars of salaries in the current budget was being pulled out of Parks and Storms and were personnel expenses. Ms. Messmer verified that was correct.

Ms. Messmer explained how the salaries were paid and the logic used to qualify the expenditures. She re-iterated the expenditures come from the Board of Aldermen and are all reviewed by our audit firm annually.

Adjournment

Member Sawicki made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Deputy City Clerk- Lori Stone