



MINUTES
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, November 21, 2017 @ 3:30 p.m.
10th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Jody Washington, Chair

Councilmember Kathie Dunbar, Vice Chair – arrived at 3:32 p.m.

Councilmember Carol Wood, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Sid Scinger, Public Service

Elaine Womboldt

Joseph Abood, Chief Deputy City Attorney

Gregory Venker, Assistant City Attorney

Mike Tobin, LFD

Public Comment

Public Comment will be made during each agenda item.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 13, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Discussion/Action

RESOLUTION- Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG)

Mr. Tobin outlined the history of the grant with the City which is going into its' 16th year. The funds are from FEMA and go through the State, who currently have 104 projects. These funds cover 35% of the salary and benefits for the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Council Member Wood asked about the grant cycle. Mr. Tobin explained that FY17 is coming from the Federal Government in this budget. The City reports to the State, then they get reimbursed for the previous year, which is the work through September 30, 2017. Public Act 390 does not apply because the City is part of the earlier mentioned 104 programs through the State, so the State is awarded the funds, and then they share the funds without the local municipalities having to reapply, they just submit quarterly reports.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANT (EMPG). MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Deficit Elimination Plan; Special Assessment Capital Project Fund

Council Member Wood outlined the project fund to the Committee. The overview detailed that Due to a special assessment on sidewalks, owners were allowed to pay overtime. The Department of Treasury wants to confirm the funds are there and the City must show the General Fund has the funds to cover the assessments.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE DEFICIT ELIMINATION PLAN; SPECIAL ASSESSMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION- Workers Compensation Claim #20628760002014530001

Mr. Abood informed the Committee that the claimant is not currently on the job, not on disability, and was not offered another job or the same job. The Claimant is not on the City retirement so they are not entitled to any retirement benefits. Mr. Abood added that the claimant worked for the City a short period of time, and then went onto work for a local municipality where they filed a claim also. Both municipalities have decided to settle with the claimant.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM OF 2062860002014530001. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Sole Source; Kennedy Industries, Flygt Pump Replacement; Public Service

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Scringer if he was aware of the new Sole Source Ordinance and if the sole source purchase was done prior to that adoption. Mr. Scringer noted he was aware of the ordinance, and they had obtained the quote September 20, 2017 and the Ordinance was adopted after that in October 2017. Mr. Scringer then went onto outline the purchase which is from the vendor who is the most familiar with the station, and the Departments goal is to get all the pumps as common as they can so the staff can work on them in a timely manner. Kenney Industries is the sole provided of the Flygt Pump. Flygt has been used since 1976 and the largest supplier, with other options less reliable. Council Staff obtained the Ordinance and the Committee confirmed that the new ordinance outline of specifics were met.

Council Member Wood asked Mr. Abood what training was being proposed to the Administration and Departments on the ordinance changes, and if they could offer any assurance that the Departments are getting training. Mr. Abood stated he was not aware of any training but would follow up with the City Attorney.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO PLACE ON FILE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Update on Michigan Tax Tribunal Cases (City Attorney Office)

Mr. Abood informed the Committee that works with the City Assessor on the MTT cases. Current cases include one from 2015 (Charter Development) and 7 appeals from 2016. One of those cases will be in court soon, but the City has a good standing position on that claim. The other cases from 2016 should be resolved in the 1st -2nd quarter of 2018. Regarding the recent JNL case, there was some information in the ACT 425 when JNL expanded, and the City was using the appraised value from that 425. There was a provision that was challenged.

Lastly, Mr. Abood mentioned that his office is currently considering having the County play a role in the appraisal costs, etc. since the MTT would also settle their taxes.

Council Member Wood asked if there were any single family residences at the tribunal. Mr. Venker stated that there are some in December but appear to be rentals, and in terms of private ownership there is a low number. The City Attorney office stated they would find out the number and report back.

OTHER

PENDING

The following items will remain pending until January 2018, and Council Member Washington asked the City Attorney office to be prepared to speak to them at that time.

- Report from Internal Auditor and City Attorney on Retiree Reimbursement
- Teamsters 580 Retiree Healthcare Coverage

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 4:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary

Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on January 25, 2018