

**COMMON COUNCIL  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 27, 2019**

The City of Noblesville Council Finance Committee met on Thursday, November 27, 2019. Megan Wiles called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. with Greg O'Connor and Rick Taylor present. Christopher Jensen participated by telephone.

Also present were City Clerk Evelyn Lees, City Attorney Michael Howard, Controller Jeff Spalding, Police Captain Brad Arnold, Chief Accountant Heather Trexler, Administrative Assistant Jacqueline Thompson, and an interested citizen.

**Cemetery Fees and Policy Ordinance**

Ms. Lees presented an ordinance raising fees for the cemetery and codifying current practices. She noted the pending arrival of a columbarium necessitated the ordinance, in part to establish fees for interment of cremation remains in the niches. She stated fees for plots are doubling, but they have not changed in 15 years and remain far lower than other nearby cemeteries. She stated she would rather raise fees now and then again in a few years to lessen the shock of a very large increase. There was a discussion about the fee structure for the columbarium. Ms. Lees stated she would make the changes before the Council meeting.

**Sewer Refunding Revenue Bonds of 2019 - Update**

Mr. Howard stated issuance costs for the bonds will be from \$100,000.00 to \$125,000.00. He asked the committee to acknowledge that these issuance fees will be paid and then reimbursed when the bonds are issued. The committee agreed to do so. Mr. Spalding stated because the Wastewater Utility is issuing the bonds, no further Council action is needed. Mr. Howard thanked the committee for their support.

**1 Year Bond for Capital Projects - Update**

Mr. Spalding stated the amount of the short-term bonds is dependent on the outcome of the excess levy appeal to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). He stated the outcome of the appeal may come too late to adjust the amount of the bonds before they have to close. He stated if the appeal is successful, the amount of the bonds will be \$2.9 million; if not, the amount of the bonds will be \$3.3 million. He stated if word of the outcome is late and the bonds are issued at the higher amount, other parts of the budget will have to be adjusted to keep the tax rate at the desired \$1.10. He stated the bonds are out to bid. Ms. Thompson stated the bid was offered to 20 banks.

Mr. Howard left the meeting.

### **Parking Meter Fund Correction & NPD Budget**

Captain Arnold stated Transfer #TA-21-19 moves a \$100,000.00 appropriation from the 100 series to the 300 series in the General Fund. He stated the fee for emergency dispatch services charged by the County was much higher than expected, so this transfer will cover the extra cost. Mr. Spalding explained the Fire Chief had worked with the County to budget for this cost, but the actual invoice was much higher than he was told it would be. Ms. Wiles noted this is the last year that the City will be charged for emergency dispatch services. Mr. Spalding replied that is correct. Captain Arnold explained another part of the transfer is moving \$16,000.00 from the 200 series to the 400 series to pay for a Police vehicle that was totaled in an accident.

Captain Arnold stated Transfer #TA-22-19 is a transfer in the Parking Meter Fund to pay for hardware and software for parking enforcement. He stated money had been set aside for paving parking lots, but the Street Department paid for the work from the MVH Fund. He stated that action made the money available, but the appropriation needs to change to fit the expenses.

Captain Arnold stated Transfer #TA-23-19 moves appropriations in the Promotional Fund from the 200 series to the 300 series to better track expenses for events such as National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, and the Citizens Academy.

### **2019 Year-End Encumbrances**

Ms. Trexler reviewed the list of encumbrances. She noted that some amounts will actually be less than what is listed, because some invoices are still being paid this year. Mr. Spalding explained that encumbrances are an appropriation action and are an exception used to adjust the 2020 budget. He noted if funds are not encumbered, they can still be re-appropriated in the next year. Ms. Trexler explained that in order to encumber funding, there must be an invoice or a signed contract with a precise amount.

### **Year-End Budget Clean-up**

Mr. Spalding stated there is a perverse incentive in state law to overbudget. He stated a private company uses overspending in one area to inform its next budget, but in state law municipalities are not allowed to have negative budgets at year end. He stated this results in a complicated process that takes considerable time. He stated this requirement is an incentive to overbudget, but he is fighting to not overbudget. He stated Transfer #TA-24-19 shifts \$586,685.00 in order to meet the state requirements. He stated he is presenting transfers of larger amounts now, so that only smaller transfers will be needed at year end. He reviewed the list of transfers attached to the resolution.

### **Fiscal (and Related) Actions on Council Meeting Agenda – December 3**

- *Ord. #50-11-19 – Additional Appropriation to fund Downtown Streetlight Refurbishment and Painting (Downtown Development Fund)*

- *Ord. #52-12-19 – Amending Ordinances and City Code concerning fees and policies for Riverside Cemetery*
- *TENTATIVE Ordinance #XX-11-19 Additional Appropriation for parking meter enforcement equipment*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-21-19 – Realignment of appropriations for NPD to match actual expenditures and encumbrances 2019 (General Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-22-19 – Realignment of appropriations for NPD to match actual expenditures and encumbrances 2019 (Parking Meter Fund)*
- *Appropriation Transfer TA-22-19 – Realignment of appropriations for NPD to match actual expenditures and encumbrances 2019 (Promotional Fund)*

Mr. Spalding reviewed the fiscal items on the Council agenda. He noted Ordinance #50-11-19 was introduced on November 26, but second reading will occur on December 17 because it requires a public hearing, which must be advertised in newspapers ten days prior. He stated the tentative ordinance will not be on the December 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda.

### **Claims Docket Review**

The committee recommended approval of the claims.

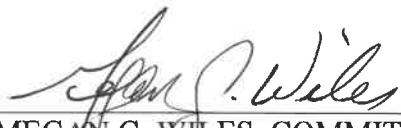
### **Review of Agenda Addendum**

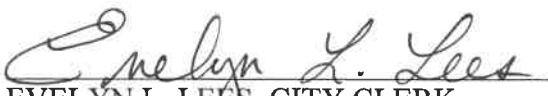
Mr. Spalding stated there were no changes since the last meeting.

### **Other Business at Discretion of the Chair**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

  
MEGAN G. WILES, COMMITTEE CHAIR

  
EVELYN L. LEES, CITY CLERK