

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 19, 2015

### MEMBERS

Chairman Budd  
Alderman Burtle  
Alderman Vota  
Alderman Jones  
Mayor Brotherton

### ALSO PRESENT

Treasurer Nation	Rocky Moore
Alderman Heberling	Dustin Allen
Alderman Koonce	Billy Williams
Mark Jacoby	Debbie Wells
Patty Hornbuckle	Marylee Rasar
Rich Payne	Ed Downs
Steve Craggs	Cindy Dey

Chairman Budd called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

### American Tower Lease Agreement/Bishop Cove Area/Lake Taylorville

Mayor Brotherton informed the Committee that he received an email on February 4, 2015 from Mr. Bobby Lester regarding the latest offer from American Tower. American Tower is not willing to go higher than \$140,000.00 for the fee simple. According to the email, Mr. Lester is still waiting to hear from American Tower on the proposal of rent increase of \$1,100.00 a month in 2017, a 3% annual escalation of monthly rent starting in 2018, and a \$20,000.00 signing bonus. After a lengthy discussion, there was still partial support for selling the property.

The Committee would like for the Mayor and Chairman Budd to again contact Mr. Lester to make a counter offer proposing a rent increase of \$1,500.00 a month in 2017, a 3% annual escalation of monthly rent starting in 2018, and a \$35,000.00 signing bonus. Discussions will continue at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

### Christmas Decorations

Mayor Brotherton initiated discussion with Patty Hornbuckle, President of the Greater Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Steve Craggs, with Taylorville Main Street requesting ideas for Christmas Decorations in the downtown area and the corridors of the City of Taylorville. The Mayor feels that the City could possibly fund decorations for the corridors of the City. Ms. Hornbuckle volunteered to research the decorations for the corridors. Mr. Craggs informed the Committee that Main Street is already designing the music system utilizing the expertise of Mr. Bill Kennedy for the season at the Courthouse and possibly adding a laser show on the Courthouse. Ms. Hornbuckle suggested that the Department of Corrections try to refurbish the existing decorations at a cost of materials only. Discussions will continue at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

### Donation/High School Band Trip to Washington D.C.

Chairman Budd is requesting that the City donate to the Taylorville High School Band to help provide funds to play at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Washington D.C. He feels this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for these students as they are the only high school band from Illinois to attend.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Burtle to recommend to the City Council to donate to the Taylorville High School Band \$2,500.00 to help with their trip to Washington D.C. to play in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, with the funds coming from the Hotel/Motel Tax. Motion carried 4-0.

### Airport Phone System

Mr. Billy Williams with CTI-Fiber explained to the Committee that the new phone system will have 12 trunk lines and in the very near future the Airport will be able to connect to the phone system. The Committee previously gave permission to connect each location when ready. If any additional trunk lines are needed there will be additional costs so this will need to be brought back to Committee.

### Incentives/Taylorville Cinema and Gowin Parc

Christian County and the City of Taylorville have passed ordinances amending the Enterprise Zone Agreement that would allow the City of Taylorville the authority to extend additional tax incentives or reimbursements for residents and business enterprises in the Enterprise Zone. Taylorville Cinema and Gowin Parc both have requested the incentives as stated in Ordinance #2406.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Vota to recommend to the City Council to reimburse Taylorville Cinema two (2) years free water not to exceed fifteen thousand (15,000) cubic feet per two (2) month period and Real Estate Tax Abatement for two (2) years; and reimburse Gowin Parc two (2) years free water not to exceed fifteen thousand (15,000) cubic feet per two (2) month period contingent upon completion of site plan requirements. Motion carried 4-0.

### Funding 30" Northeast Sewer Line

The Committee discussed a proposed 30" sanitary sewer line that would run north of the City from Rt. 48 to Rt. 29. Chairman Budd mentioned that an increase in the Utility Tax might be one possible source of funding the project which could cost in excess of three million dollars. Mayor Brotherton stated that although he felt that the sewer line was definitely needed, he did not like the idea of raising taxes of any kind at this time. He reminded the Committee that the citizens were already looking at doubling of their water rates and a large increase in the Sanitary District charges.

Alderman Heberling stated that he believes it might be possible to fund the project from the current revenue stream. He pointed out that the loan from the Water Department will be repaid soon and that the \$200,000.00 the Council has been directing to retire that debt would be freed up for some other use.

Alderman Budd stated he believes that because the City has been made aware of the possible harmful concentrations of sewer gas going through the existing system it is imperative that the City do something quickly to address the matter. Alderman Burtle believes that the Council needs to obtain some real numbers on the cost of chemically treating the sewage. Several Aldermen stated they feel the Taylorville Sanitary District should contribute to the project as well due to the fact that it would greatly benefit as a result. Discussions will continue at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

The November 2014 Sales Tax (received in February 2015) was \$218,450.15 compared to \$203,345.19 in November 2013 and year-to-date is \$128,866.60 more than November 2013.

The November 2014 Non Home Rule Sales Tax (received in February 2015) was \$92,899.97 compared to \$86,513.91 in November 2013 and year-to-date is \$40,446.40 more than November 2013.

The interest earned on the Sewer Project Fund Account to date is \$188,829.36 and the current balance is \$228,786.26. The balance in the Non Home Rule Sales Tax Overage Account as of January 30, 2015 is \$331,393.90.

Motion by Alderman Vota and seconded by Alderman Burtle to recommend to the City Council to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Burtle to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

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Larry Budd, Chairman  
Finance Committee