

FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 19, 2013

MEMBERS

Chairman Budd
Alderman Vota
Alderman Burtle
Alderman Jones
Mayor Brotherton

ALSO PRESENT

Alderman Walters
Alderman Koonce
Alderman Heberling
Jacque Nation
Shirley Sams

Chairman Budd called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M.

Natural Gas Presentation

Mr. Dave Titus was at last month's Finance Committee Meeting to discuss participation in the Ameren Gas Transportation Program. He stated Ameren is getting out of the natural gas production business and will focus primarily on the distribution. Municipalities will be able to select their natural gas supplier and Ameren will distribute it. He recommended the City utilize the company he was currently representing, Santanna Energy Services, as its agent to secure its natural gas supply.

The City of Taylorville receives 18,000 free therms per year under the current gas franchise agreement with Ameren regardless of price; the Committee decided at this time it would be safer to stay with the known savings rather than transferring to a new plan. No action was taken.

Azavar Audit Solutions, Inc. /Audit Program/ Uncollected Municipal Utility Taxes

At last month's meeting a representative from Azavar Audit Solutions, Inc. addressed the Committee to do an audit of the utility taxes due to the municipalities from the utility provider. As of this date not one municipality that was contacted has received any money from the utility provider. One municipality contacted is paying a monthly fee to Azavar for what was determined as due them from the audit even though the municipality hasn't received any additional money from the utility. The Aldermen in attendance didn't want to go forward at this time as there may be upfront charges with no guaranteed returns. Mayor Brotherton advised he just received a call from a representative of Azavar Audit Solutions today stating she would research and obtain names of municipalities that have received money. No action was taken.

Award Audit Bid

Chairman Budd presented a recap of the two bids received and advised that he had discussed the selection of the auditors with City Treasurer Nation. He asked her to address the Committee to discuss who she would recommend and the reason why. She recommends staying with Lively, Mathias, Hooper, & Noblet as she is new to the Treasurer's position and didn't feel now would be the time to switch to someone new as Lively, Mathias, Hooper, & Noblet are already familiar with the City's accounts and know where to find everything they need if they would need something and she wasn't available. Treasurer Nation advised Rich Hooper had recently been asked to attend a discussion at City Hall with a representative from Owaneco and their attorney Quinn Broverman to discuss water rates. He attended the meeting at no cost to the City. Mayor Brotherton informed the Committee that they are always available to answer any questions at no cost.

Motion by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Vota to recommend to the City Council to award the audit bid to Lively, Mathias, Hooper, & Noblet for the Annual Audit for the four Fiscal Years ending 4/30/14, 4/30/15, 4/30/16 and 4/30/17. Motion carried 4-0.

Transportation Enhancement Grant

Recently there had been discussion regarding enlarging the cut outs that are around the square for planting of trees with funds from the Transportation Enhancement Grant. After researching the overall scope of work that would need to be done to make everything ADA accessible it was determined the cost would exceed the \$36,000.00 from the grant. The Committee asked Mayor Brotherton to try to negotiate a repayment plan over a period of time if possible rather than paying it back all at once as some of the funds have been spent. This will be on next month's agenda for an update.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Jones to recommend to the City Council to direct the Mayor to move forward with negotiating a repayment plan for the Transportation Enhancement Grant with I.D.O.T. Motion carried 4-0.

Treasurer's Report

August 2013 Sales Tax (received in November) was \$212,559.11 compared to \$196,204.27 in August 2012. Year-to-date is \$39,251.35 more than 2012. September 2013 Sales Tax (received in December) was \$201,923.34 compared to \$192,125.88 in September 2012. Year-to-date is \$49,048.81 more than 2012.

Non Home Rule Sales Tax for August 2013 (received in November) was \$86,468.06 compared to \$83,314.14 in August 2012. Year-to-date is \$23,045.82 more than 2012. September 2013 Non Home Rule Sales Tax (received in December) was \$83,461.88 compared to \$81,963.56 in September 2012. Year-to-date is \$24,544.14 more than 2012.

Sewer Project Fund-Interest earned on this account to date is \$186,547.04. The current balance is \$303,469.30.

Real Estate Taxes Received- The fourth installment was received on October 22, 2013 in the amount of \$422,994.32. The Fire Pension received \$42,892.17 and the Police Pension received \$58,422.21. The final installment was received on November 25, 2013 in the amount of \$213,783.94. The Fire Pension received \$21,743.55 and the Police Pension received \$29,553.87.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

Larry Budd, Chairman
Finance Committee