

FINANCE COMMITTEE

October 21, 2021

MEMBERS

Chairman Dorchinecz
Alderman Budd
Alderman Bryant

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Alderman Olive
Alderman Brown
Alderman Wilson
Alderman Driskell

Clerk Lilly
Treasurer Hamell
HBO Goodall
Superintendent Mann
Iris Noblet-Crites

Chief Wheeler
Asst Chief Childers
Steve Craggs

ABSENT

Alderman Skultety

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

FY 2020/2021 AUDIT

Iris Noblet-Crites, CPA with LMHN, was present to discuss two noteworthy Internal Control repeat items from the Audit review. The first item concerns lack of segregation of duties in the Treasurer's Office. As in the past audits, the Treasurer's Office is a staff of one. This one person is handling all of the banking duties from start to finish including preparing bank deposit, reconciling bank statements, and making any necessary changes. There are 35 bank accounts and statements impacted, with only one set of eyes looking at them. This should not happen and is a weakness for the City that could become material at some point. Again, she suggested that there should be a second person reviewing these statements; pooled cash statement every month and other smaller accounts randomly. This could be done by the City Clerk or an Alderman, so long as it is done consistently. The second item noted was regarding Payroll. As suggested many years ago, the HR Manager should be reviewing payroll, as she is the logical person to know all the employees and would know if there was an incorrect paycheck. Treasurer Hamell stated that the current process is as follows: HR Manager reviews the timesheets; Lucia enters all payroll into the Incode system; Treasurer check payroll before posted; Lucia processes checks. Iris suggested that someone should then review the final checks before they are issued.

DOWNTOWN BUILDING RENOVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Steve Craggs with DowntownTaylorville was present to discuss offering incentives to business/property owners who wish to renovate second and third stories of downtown buildings for living quarters/rental apartment units. Many of the buildings are blighted on those stories, as well as having damaged roofs. He is suggesting that the City provide grants under the Business Development District for renovations in the amount of .50/\$1.00 spent. By his estimate, the average cost is \$100.00 per square foot, and this would include wiring, plumbing, flooring, walls, windows, HVAC, bathrooms, kitchens, etc. An 800 square foot apartment renovation could be upwards of \$80,000.00, and many buildings would have multiple apartments. If the Council chose to move forward with this program, it would be implemented into the 2022/2023 Budget. Alderman Budd noted that the City must also keep BDD funds set aside for City infrastructure programs for other areas, as well as the downtown area. He also stated that a five-year payback program for BDD Reimbursements should be discussed to protect these investments, although most reimbursable expenses remain with the building and are then available to a new owner.

CITY OF TAYLORVILLE MOBILE APP

This item was tabled at this time.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SPENDING

Chairman Dorchinecz discussed many potential options for the American Rescue Plan Act funds, including offering bonuses to employees. He feels that ALL employees who were full time and worked during the time of COVID should receive a bonus. He further suggested an additional bonus for those who were vaccinated.

Alderman Budd voiced his opposition to bonuses, stating that employees received checks whether they worked or were at home, and would set a precedent as the City moves toward Union negotiations. Alderman Driskell stated her appreciation to all employees in all departments, noting that it takes all departments to make the City function and all should receive a bonus. This bonus would show the City's appreciation as the employees are the most valuable asset to the City. The Mayor stated that the Labor Attorney does not agree with bonuses. Chairman Dorchinecz reiterated that the bonuses are an eligible use for the ARPA Funds, and that the City has four years to spend these funds. Treasurer Hamell stated that the funds have been appropriated, but not budgeted for at this time. There will be a Committee put together to best determine a proper spending plan.

BDD APPLICATIONS

Business Development District applications were presented to the Committee, after receiving approval from the Business Development District Committee in October.

Motion by Alderman Budd and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to approve the Business Development District No. 1 Redevelopment Agreement for Sheri Morgan dba Gardner Glass L&M Inc. in the amount of \$5,175.00. The motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Budd to recommend to the City Council to approve the Business Development District No. 1 Redevelopment Agreement for Coker Family, Inc. dba Battery Specialists + Golf Cars in the amount of \$35,538.00. The motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Alderman Budd and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to approve the Business Development District No. 1 Redevelopment Agreement for John McDowell dba Angelos in the amount of \$3,214.93. The motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Alderman Budd and seconded by Alderman Dorchinecz to recommend to the City Council to approve the Business Development District No. 1 Redevelopment Agreement for Bekim Letniku in the amount of \$36,883.17. The motion carried (4-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Hamell presented her report, along with the department Statement of Revenues & Expenditures. She noted several departments have increased expenditures. Mayor Barry stated that interest from the ARP account can be used when received. He also suggested that the funds should be placed in a 6 month CD to maximize interest earned on these funds until plan is developed for spending.

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Budd to recommend to the City Council to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried (3-0).

ANY OTHER MATTERS

Alderman Budd provided an update on the trucks ordered from Bob Ridings; they should be available by the end of next week. These will be paid with the \$750,000.00 funds borrowed from US Bank earlier this year.

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Budd to adjourn. The motion carried (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

Steve Dorchinecz, Chairman
Finance Committee