

FINANCE COMMITTEE

August 20, 2020

MEMBERS

Chairman Budd
Alderman Lanzotti
Alderman Bryant
Alderman Burtle

ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry
Alderman Olive
Treasurer Nation
Clerk Lilly

Alderman Dorchinecz
HBO Goodall
Kellie Hamell
Patty Hornbuckle
Owen Lasswell

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

Chamber of Commerce Chillifest

Chamber of Commerce CEO Patty Hornbuckle was present to discuss the plans for the upcoming ChilliFest. It will be held October 3-4, 2020 on the Taylorville Square. This is the 35th year for this event. She is requesting payment of the City's contribution to the event of \$8,000.00, previously agreed upon by the City Council and payable from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. Chairman Budd inquired as to how the contribution would be applied if the event was cancelled. Mrs. Hornbuckle stated that the funds would either be refunded upon request, applied to the next year's event, or left as a donation in full or in half.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Lanzotti to recommend to the City Council to approve the contribution of \$8,000.00 for the 35th Annual ChilliFest, payable from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. The motion carried (4-0).

BDD Applications

Three applications were recently submitted to and approved by the BDD Committee for building upgrades to businesses located within the Business Development District.

John McDowell d/b/a Angelo's Pizza has installed permanent glass partitions between the seating areas, removing wooden spindles and replacing drywall. The total project cost was \$2,841.71, with an eligible reimbursement of 50%.

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Lanzotti to recommend to the City Council approve payment to John McDowell d/b/a Angelo's Pizza in the amount of \$1,420.86 paid out of the Business Development District Fund. The motion carried (4-0).

Phil Bliler, owner of the building located at 101 East Main Cross, is currently renovating the building, formally home to PS Printing, that was damaged by fire. This current application covers work done to the exterior, including power washing, caulking, painting and wood work. Total project cost is \$10,000.00, eligible for 50% reimbursement. A brief discussion was held regarding concerns that this is not an active business that is generating revenue and paying taxes into the Business Development District Fund.

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Bryant to recommend to the City Council to approve payment to Phil Bliler in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be paid out of the Business Development District Fund. The motion carried (4-0).

Nathan Shanks and Jeremy Dulakis, owners of buildings located at 108 and 110 East Market Street which house both small businesses and residential apartments, have installed 36 new windows across the second floor of the building. Total project cost was \$25,527.00 and is eligible for reimbursement at 35%.

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Burtle to recommend to the City Council to approve payment to Nathan Shanks and Jeremy Dulakis in the amount of \$8,934.35, payable from the Business Development District Fund. The motion carried (4-0).

Advertising Campaign

No updates presented at this time; no action was taken.

No Sales Tax on City Purchases

Finance Chairman Budd expressed concern over purchases being made that have sales tax added. The majority of these purchases are made by the Police Department. Individuals have purchased items, reimbursable through the uniform allowance, from Amazon or other suppliers who are not set up with our tax exempt number. Mayor Barry noted that many times they are purchasing these items for a price that is less expensive than through the regular suppliers even with sales tax included. Chairman Budd has addressed this multiple times and is seeking a formal motion to address this issue.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Lanzotti to recommend to the City Council to allow Finance Chairman Budd to pull all bills that include sales tax prior to City Council approving payment dated August 20, 2020 or later. The motion carried (4-0).

Salaries for Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, and Aldermen

Chairman Budd explained that the salary ordinance for elected officials must be completed a minimum of 180 days prior to the election. He believes the Aldermen should be eligible for an increase, but understands that this is not the appropriate time. Alderman Burtle approached the topic of the Treasurer's salary, discussing the reduction in responsibility for the Water Office operations and staff. His recommendation is to lower the salary of the Treasurer, while keeping the Mayor, Clerk and Alderman at the current rate. Treasurer Nation presented a list of her duties/tasks and summary of other Treasurer salaries and responsibilities. She was opposed to a reduction, stating that she has an increased work load with the vacancy in the Deputy Treasurer position. Mayor Barry presented an option for Aldermen of receiving a per diem for meeting attendance. Cost of living was noted at 1-2% per year to be considered in setting the salaries. Clerk Lilly presented an opinion that all City employees, including all Union members, have received either 8% or 9% for the four year term of the most recent contract. Superintendents are adjusted accordingly based on the increase in the working foreman rate and also receive paid health insurance for themselves and their families. In previous salary Ordinances, this was a benefit for the full time elected positions as well. Chairman Budd felt that the paid insurance was too much for the City to bear at this time. He did feel that an increase was warranted for these elected positions.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Bryant to direct the City Clerk to prepare and recommend to the City Council to approve the Salary Ordinance for the Mayor to set the salary at \$58,000.00 per year. After more discussion, the motion was amended. Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Lanzotti to direct the City Clerk to prepare and recommend to the City Council to approve the Salary Ordinance for the Mayor for the 2021-2025 term to set the base salary at \$58,000.00 per year, with an increase of 2% each year over the four year term for a total of 8%. The motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Alderman Lanzotti and seconded by Alderman Burtle to direct the City Clerk to prepare and recommend to the City Council to approve the Salary Ordinance for the City Clerk for the 2021-2025 term to set the base salary at \$55,000.00 per year, with an increase of 2% per year over the four year term for a total of 8%. The motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Bryant to direct the City Clerk to prepare and recommend to the City Council to approve the Salary Ordinance for the City Treasurer for the 2021-2025 term to set the base salary at \$50,000.00 per year, with an increase of 2% per year over the four year term or a total of 8%. The motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Burtle to direct the City Clerk to prepare and recommend to the City Council to approve the Salary Ordinance for the Alderman for the 2021-2025 term to set the salary at \$600.00 per month. The motion carried (3-1).

Treasurer's Report

The May 2020 Sales Tax (received in August) was \$227,848.53 compared to \$241,789.61 in May 2019 and year-to-date is \$62,515.73 less than 2019.

The May 2020 Non-Home Rule Sales Tax (received in August) was \$95,883.00 compared to \$99,181.00 in May 2019 and year-to-date is \$18,515.73 less than 2019.

May 2020 BDD tax (received in August) was \$121,267.35. Total received since January 2019 is \$1,552,108.89. Expenditures to date total \$286,074.19.

Motion by Alderman Bryant and seconded by Alderman Burtle to recommend to the City Council to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion carried (4-0).

Any Other Matters

Alderman Dorchinecz expressed his appreciation for the recent award of \$1.5 million from the State of Illinois for the East Main Cross Project. He would like to see money that was pledged for East Main Cross be obligated for West Main Cross. West Main Cross is FAU eligible and those FAU funds will be utilized. Prior to the project, the Street and Sewer Committee will reevaluate funding in order to proceed.

City Treasurer Nation expressed her concern in the reduction in salary for the 2021-2025 term for the City Treasurer, stating her heavy workload and time constraints in being solely responsible for completion of all tasks.

Motion by Alderman Burtle and seconded by Alderman Bryant to adjourn. The motion carried (4-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Larry Budd, Chairman
Finance Committee