

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gore at 5:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Gore, Leah Sellers Excused: Nevin Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Palmer, Phil Roush, John Green

AGENDA:

- 1) Elect a Chairperson - Mr. Taylor was elected Chairman.
- 2) Collins Avenue repaving - This issue was presented to the Public Service Committee in January. When the budget was put together this year, there were issues the way the project was presented. Also, it had been discussed at that time what the project really should entail. The grant was originally applied for in 2003, and it was to repair the concrete on Collins Avenue by replacing sections of the concrete. City was successful in receiving a \$296,000 grant for a \$400,000 project. Street Superintendent said the best thing would be to tear everything out and start over. Over the last couple years, while waiting for the grant approval to be formalized, City looked at 3 options. Option A is patchwork repair amounting to \$400,000. Option B was to tear everything out and put in all new pavement, curbs and gutters, underdrains, etc. amounting to \$655,000. Option C was to tear out the pavement, but leave the curbs and gutters and some of the underdrains amounting to \$475,000. The Public Service Committee agreed on Option B based upon recommendation of the City Engineer. Since additional funds are needed, the issue was referred to Finance Committee. Assistant Finance Director Green said \$359,000 would have to be appropriated from the General Fund and transferred to the Street Fund.

Mr. Gore asked about the longevity for each option. Mr. Roush said the pavement was put down about 45 years ago. The underdrains under the curb, which is what takes the stormwater away from between the sidewalk and keeps it from getting under the pavement, is broken down in some spots, which will need to be repaired, thus the reason for wanting to tear everything out and put in all new.

Option B would have the longest life. Option A would last about 5-10 years. That is the least attractive option. You may get 15 years out of Option C.

Mr. Gore asked how long it would take to build that money back up in the General Fund. Mr. Green said currently the General Fund is running as projected three months into the year. Income taxes are down a little from last year at this time, but it's still too soon to tell. Vacation buyout and sick time buyout means positive cash for the City.

Ms. Sellers asked about the possibility of applying for additional money. Would that jeopardize the \$296,000 already received? Mr. Roush didn't think it would jeopardize what the City had already received, and they will attempt to apply for more.

Mr. Roush recommended starting the legislative process. All money appropriated would not have to be spent.

Mr. Gore said Finance Committee would probably co-sponsor the legislation.

Ms. Sellers expressed concern about spending this much money on streets in a non-growth area.

Traffic load per day in that area is about 5,000 cars per day.

Mr. Gore said he could support the appropriation for \$359,000 with the understanding that the City would make the effort to get additional funding. Worst case scenario would be to go with Option C, which replaces the damaged curbs.

City will put together an RFP to the District for additional funding. Same percentage of local share will be requested.

Mr. Marshall asked how long it had been since it was rebuilt and why concrete versus asphalt. Mr. Roush said the street has been in there since the early 60's. A section between Hickory and Beech was torn out and replaced with asphalt. Option B & C would be asphalt.

3) Plum Street culvert replacement - - Mr. Palmer said there is \$150,000 in this year's budget for Plum Street culvert replacement and some paving on Plum Street. The culvert replacement will cost roughly \$400,000. Engineering work

that was not anticipated is needed. Similar request for additional funding will be discussed with Public Service Committee. Since then, City has stepped back from that to concentrate on the environmental issues. Money will be used to get the engineering done then the project will be put in the budget next year. Paving dollars will be moved from Plum Street section to Charles Lane, and also will be used for widening of East Fifth at the tracks out.

Mr. Gore summarized there is \$150,000 budgeted out of the storm sewer budget to do this work this year and a portion out of the streets budget to pave Plum Street. Now the estimates exceed the \$150,000 plus the paving dollars. Rather than to ask for additional appropriation to do the whole project, City will take the \$150,000 to clean up the area then transfer some paving dollars. At the end of the year, City will have \$120/130,000 of the \$150,000 left, and then the additional \$200,000 will be budgeted next year.

Mr. Roush said the City met with reps from Heartland, the hospital and Mike Litsky because they all have a stake in that area. Found out from Chip Hubbs that the hospital is planning to rebuild the Plum Street side of the parking lot. He was unsure of all the details. Mr. Stolte will meet with above group for further discussion. A concern of the City is that if the hospital is going to be doing work, we don't want to rush in and re-do Plum Street.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.