

FINANCE

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 6:50 p.m.

Police Training Room – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Witte, Vice Chairman Crawford,

.3Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman Smith, and Alderman George. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Nicholas DiCerbo, Jr., City Attorney; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Keri Kerper, Community Development Program Coordinator; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Bob Bell, Fire Chief; Ed Jennings, Code Enforcement Supervisor, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Witte called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present except Alderman Andreano, who was excused.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Committee Meetings (Tuesday, April 17, 2018)

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Monthly Finance & Bills Review

Alderman Witte stated that she sees two entries for the same amount under the Adult Recreation budget for ceiling rehabilitation, and she questions if this is an error. Mr. Saradin replied that there was not enough in one line item to cover the cost, so it was split equally between two line items. Mayor Aiello added that the previous individual who was in charge of the program has donated \$3,000 to the replacement of the ceiling.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Referrals for Consideration

a. Discussion – Year End Contingency Transfers

Alderman Witte stated that the report showing year to date numbers through the end of April shows that there is \$4.1 million remaining in the budget. She asked if we can anticipate how much will be left at the end of the year. Mr. Saradin replied that he is very hesitant to make that prediction. Alderman Witte questioned if any leftover funds would need to be transferred to surplus, and Mr. Saradin responded that it automatically get rolled into surplus.

Alderman Witte questioned if there was a gut feeling one way or the other, and Mr. Saradin replied that there is not. \$450,000 was taken from General Fund Balance for a Judgment payment, and last year, \$150,000 was taken to balance the budget. He is hoping that we do not have to touch the Fund Balance again for quite some time. Alderman Crawford added that at the end of the day, we need to rebuild the Fund Balance.

Mayor Aiello stated that there is \$62,050 left in General Fund Contingency, and as of the last meeting, \$30,000 was discussed being used for the War Vets Park pavilion, \$10,000 for live streaming of meetings, \$7,000 for an eCode update, and \$15,050 for parks equipment. Alderman Witte asked if this amount for War Vets Park is on top of what is being used from remaining Bradner Stadium funds, and Mayor Aiello responded that the total estimate is around \$47,000. \$17,000 can be found elsewhere in leftover funding.

Alderman Gonzalez stated that, although he would love to be able to live stream meetings, this is more of a “wants” versus “needs” situation, and we could set this aside for the time being. Mayor Aiello added that if we do leave the \$10,000 in Contingency, that it will roll into the Fund Balance. Alderman Crawford stated that he feels that it is a good idea to live stream meetings, but he wonders if there is a cheaper alternative. The idea, though, does provide another source for transparency and getting the message out there.

Ms. Kerper stated that Kaboom for the Play, which the City recently applied for a grant through, has another program that offers funding. It is a build it yourself program, and the funding is for playground equipment. The application requires a commitment of \$24,000 to \$50,000 by the City in order to apply for a maximum of \$15,000 in funding. The next round of funding is in September. Alderman Crawford stated that if we are going to set aside money for playground equipment, he would like to see \$24,000 set aside in a Capital Fund so that the City can apply for this grant as well.

Alderman Crawford continued that there are some parks in the City that could really use some TLC, and he would like to leverage the City’s funding to try and get additional funds. Ms. Kerper explained that under the program, the current equipment in place must be unsafe and again, the new equipment has to be built by the City.

Ms. Kerper continued that she has been in contact with a representative from the program, and asked if the \$15,000 maximum award would lessen if the maximum contribution was not made. The reply from Kaboom is that they would work with us, and that it depends on the equipment chosen.

Alderman Smith asked if this means that the money will be tied up until the fall, and Ms. Kerper replied that it would be. The money should be awarded by November. Alderman Crawford

asked if the City workers would be able to build the playground, and Mr. Ring replied that they should be able to.

The amount for transfers was changed to \$30,000 for the War Vets Park pavilion, \$7,000 for eCode updates, and \$25,050 to dedicate to parks. Mayor Aiello stated that he likes the idea of trying to use money that we are already planning to spend on parks as leverage to get more funding.

Alderman Dougherty stated that he feels that we still need to figure out the situation with live streaming meetings. He feels that there is a lot of misinformation out there. Alderman Gonzalez stated that is a great point. We can always look into the purchase of a device like an iPad and stream the meetings on Facebook Live. Alderman Crawford expressed concern regarding archiving, and Mr. DiCerbo stated that we would not be creating a record.

A PL and Resolution will be on the next Regular Meeting agenda.

b. Discussion – Fund Transfer for Olean Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing Project

Ms. Kerper stated that in July 2017, changes were made to the Project design that she believes involve lighting. \$35,000 was committed from her department's budget for these changes, and to date about \$10,000 has been spent. She would like to move \$24,936.12 into a Capital Fund to continue to use the funds after the end of the fiscal year.

A PL and Resolution will be on the next Regular Meeting agenda.

c. Discussion – NYSDEC's Tree Inventory Grant Opportunity

Ms. Kerper explained that the City applied for this no match grant last year, but was not awarded the funding. She would like to reapply for funding of up to \$50,000 to do a GIS tree inventory. The City will hire this service out if it is awarded the funding. The application is due by 7/12/2018, and this is highly competitive.

A PL and Resolution will be on the next Regular Meeting agenda.

d. Discussion – Kaboom for the Play – Additional Grant Opportunities

Discussed previously.

e. Discussion – Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Options

Mayor Aiello stated that he asked for this item to be put on the agenda. If we are awarded CFA funding, the City has up to an 80% match obligation. The applications are going to be coming up

again soon, and rather than going through all of the work, he would like to get a feel from the Council. He would like to know their thoughts on if we should apply, or if we should take a step back and finish the many projects that we have going on right now.

Alderman Witte stated that she would like to see the City take a year off from the CFA grants, and Alderman Crawford stated that he agrees. He feels that the projects coming up will keep the City very busy for the next couple of years, especially with the DRI potential. He would like to take a step back and work on building our Fund Balance.

Alderman Smith stated that he is fine with taking a breather, and Alderman Dougherty stated that he agrees with saving money for a while. Alderman Gonzalez agreed. Alderman Witte stated that she feels that we are all on the same page.

Mayor Aiello stated that we have been very successful in the past and have a lot going on. We will keep our eye out for grants that are 100% funded with no match. Alderman Crawford stated that we should also keep in mind grants for projects that we are already funding for. For example, we are setting aside money already for the Washington Street water line issues, and if there is a grant opportunity to shed some of the burden, we should pursue it.

6. Committee Reports

None

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.