

FINANCE

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – 5:50 p.m.

via Zoom

Present: Members: Chairman Witte, Vice Chairman Crawford, Alderman Panus, Alderman Gonzalez, Alderman Barnard; Alderman Robinson, and Alderman Anastasia. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Witte called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and asked that the record show that all committee members were present.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Committee Meeting (Tuesday, March 30, 2021)

The minutes of the March 30, 2021 were not available.

3. Unfinished Business

a. PL #11-21: (Aiello) Budget 2021 – 2022

Mayor Aiello explained that after the last meeting, he and Mr. Saradin took all of the Council's suggestions and adopted the budget to those suggestions. He explained that Mr. Saradin sent out the pages that were changed in the tentative budget to the Council.

Mr. Saradin explained that on page three of the document, he changed the amount taken from Surplus to balance the budget from \$500,000 to \$336,800. He explained that with a one percent tax increase the assessed value per thousand went from \$15.01 to \$15.16 per thousand. He explained that on page four, the 15 cent per thousand increase is shown.

Mr. Saradin explained that on page thirteen, line 1640.446, Auto Repairs, was decreased from \$152,500 to \$142,500. He explained that Information Technology does not have a line item for web design but that a \$15,000 increase was placed in line item 1680.454, Programming. He explained that these are the two line item changes that the Council suggested.

Mr. Saradin explained that on page 42, there were changes made to Estimated Revenues as discussed. He noted that there are still some things up in the air. He explained that on line 2301, Transportation – Arterial Highway Contribution, which the number in the earlier budget was reduced 10 percent and he has increased this back to one hundred percent funding as we are thinking that we will not see a cut in expenditures. He explained that the biggest change is in line 3001, Revenue Share NYS, which is the City's AIM funding. He explained that this was cut by ten percent in the previous tentative budget and he restored this to full value.

Mr. Saradin explained that page 44 gives a history of tax rates per thousand, and this page reflects the fifteen cent increase per thousand this year. He explained that there is no discussion for the Water Department, as the Council opted to leave that increase at two percent. He explained that the Council suggested that Sewer be raised 1 ½ percent and this is shown on page 48. He explained that he and Mayor Aiello spoke with Mr. Ring and Mr. Camp regarding where to place this increase, and after discussion it was decided to be used for additional capital improvements and the increase is shown in line 8320.301.

Mr. Saradin asked that the Council keep in mind that the Surplus increased on 05/31/2020 by \$376,000 so in comparison to the \$336,800 being taken from Fund Balance, we are actually increasing the Surplus in the end by around \$40,000. He asked that the Council look over things and with their okay, he can prepare the final budget.

Mayor Aiello explained that Mr. Ring would like to be heard regarding the \$10,000 cut from Vehicle Repairs. Mr. Ring explained that we currently only have \$6,000 left in the line item for vehicle repairs for the 2020-2021 budget year. He explained that we really need to replenish that account, and we could really use \$20,000 there now. He explained that they will be going over budget on this account. He explained that we will have the same fleet next year because it takes so long for new vehicles to come in.

Mr. Ring suggested that the \$10,000 be taken from the Salt line item rather than the Vehicle Repair line. He explained that we have about 1,300 tons of salt left that will give us a good start for next year. He explained that it is often discussed in Fleet Management that the Vehicle Repairs account is a heavily taxed item. Alderman Witte asked if we can take the \$6,000 left and encumber the funds for next year, and Mr. Ring explained that we still have two months left in this year's budget.

Alderman Crawford asked that as far as policy goes, once the Council passes the budget, if it is up to the Mayor and Department Heads to do an internal transfer from line item to line item with no Council approval. Mr. Saradin explained that this is correct, although Council approval is needed to move money in the 100 lines for Personal Service. He explained that we probably do 10 to 12 interdepartmental transfers a year. Alderman Crawford asked if there is money left in the salt line, if management could move this money to the vehicle repair line. Mr. Saradin explained that the salt line is in a different department than the vehicle repair line, so Council approval would be required to do that.

Mr. Saradin explained that salt is in line item 5142.412. He explained that if the Department of Public Works wanted to move money from this line for vehicle repairs, they would need to come to the Council for approval. Alderman Crawford explained that he has no problem with the change that Mr. Ring suggested. Mr. Ring reiterated that he would like a \$10,000 reduction

in Snow Removal and a \$10,000 increase in Central Garage for vehicle repairs. The consensus of the Council was to make this change.

Mayor Aiello explained that the latest from NYCOM is that they are anticipating the State budget to pass sometime this week. He explained that as it stands right now, the AIM, CHIPS and Aerial Maintenance funding is in there, but they will have to wait until the final budget is approved to let us know anymore. Alderman Witte asked if we have heard any more about the COVID money coming to municipalities, and Mayor Aiello explained that he has not heard anything more since last week when he spoke with Senator Schumer's office. He explained that we are still waiting on the Treasury Department to set parameters and Senator Schumer's office did ask that they be very liberal on how they interpret the parameters. He explained that when it was passed, the Federal government had 30 days to get the money to the State, and then the State has 60 days to get it to municipalities but could ask for a 30day extension.

Alderman Witte asked if \$30,000 was added to the line item for the Sidewalk Program. Mr. Saradin explained that it hasn't been, and that this is something that we will talk about when we get together to talk about Capital Projects and the use of leftover Contingency. Alderman Crawford explained that we can get together with Mayor Aiello and Mr. Saradin to decide when to have the discussion on Capital Projects. He explained that we have a number of Capital Projects that we would like to move forward with and we have to have a discussion on how to finance them, as well as how to use the Federal stimulus money.

A motion to approve PL #11-21 was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to City Attorney for Resolution.

4. New Referrals for Consideration

None

5. Committee Reports

A motion to approve Committee Reports was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Crawford. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Witte, seconded by Alderman Anastasia. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.