

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members – F&A Committee
FROM: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator
DATE: September 11, 2013
SUBJECT: Minutes – 09-10-2013

The Finance and Administration Committee met on September 10, 2013. Those in attendance included: Chairperson Mike Casey, Ward III; Council Committee Member Nancy Greenwood, Ward I; Council Committee Member Elliot Grissom, Ward II; Mayor Bob Nation; City Administrator, Mike Herring; Finance Director, Brian Whittle; Police Chief Ray Johnson; Director of Public Services, Mike Geisel; Management Intern, James Mello; and one other person. Council Committee Member Connie Fults, Ward IV, was unable to attend the meeting.

Chairperson Mike Casey called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes—August 28, 2013

Councilmember Greenwood motioned to approve the minutes from the August 28, 2013 meeting of this Committee. Councilmember Grissom seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, with a unanimous result, and the motion was approved.

Chairperson Mike Casey moved up agenda numbers 3 and 4 to the second and third agenda items.

3. Ordinance Changes to Liquor Laws

Chief Ray Johnson summarized his memo, dated July 17 (see attached), noting that the ordinance prepared by City Attorney Heggie, which was attached to the Chief's memo, will bring the City's laws into compliance with State law. It also clarifies some additional City ordinances, in an effort to be consistent with State law.

Chief Johnson stated that the proposed changes were developed in conjunction with Mr. Rob Heggie, the City Attorney for the City of Chesterfield, and that Mr. Heggie also supports these changes.

A brief discussion ensued. Chairperson Casey thanked Chief Johnson and the others who were involved in the preparation of this proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Greenwood made a motion to recommend that City Council approve the attached ordinance. Councilmember Grissom seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, with a 3-0 result, and the motion was approved.

4. Proposal to Hire Additional Police Officers

Chief Johnson summarized his memo, dated August 13, requesting that consideration be given to hiring three (3) additional Police Officers NOW, utilizing existing funds from the FY2013 Budget and Drug Forfeiture dollars. Those combined funds are sufficient to cover the costs of adding these additional officers, thru 12/31/2014. Chief Johnson further explained that the “need” for these officers has resulted from the opening of two outlet malls and the growing utilization of the City’s major recreational facilities, including the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex, the expanded trail system and the City’s Amphitheater.

Chief Johnson further clarified/explained that he and his Command Staff were continuing to evaluate the impact of the “need” described above, in terms of a specific recommendation for additional Police Officers within the FY2014 Budget. At present, it appears that the total number of new officers will be five (5). If the current recommendation to hire three (3) additional officers is approved, it will reduce the need for funding, within the FY2014 Budget, to just two (2) additional officers. He further commented that the Police Department had only recently become fully-staffed and the impact of being fully-staffed was also being evaluated, as to determine both current and future needs.

Chief Johnson added that it was his intent to create a specialized unit that would specifically patrol areas of increasing need, such as the aforementioned City parks and recreation facilities and the two new outlet malls.

Councilmember Grissom noted that a portion of the “need” was Parks related. As such, he suggested that a portion of the total cost be funded via the Parks Sales Tax Fund. Mr. Herring commented that he and the Management Team were still in the early stages of work on the proposed FY2014 Budget. He agreed to explore all options to appropriately assign costs to both the Parks Sales Tax Fund and the Capital Improvement Sales Tax Fund, in order to relieve the General Fund, as much as possible.

Councilmember Greenwood inquired as to whether or not the Outlet Malls have their own security systems and personnel. Chief Johnson replied that the malls do have their own systems and personnel, but despite them, there have still been numerous calls for service, by our Police Department, since the malls opened in August. Mr. Herring commented that he and former-Mayor Geiger had visited several similar Outlet Malls and had met with local officials, at each location. He had also arranged for Chief Johnson to interact with local Police Chiefs. Such a spike in Police calls is common and expected with these sorts of developments Mr. Herring added his support for Chief Johnson’s recommendation and commended the Chief for his efforts to pro-actively address these needs.

The Chief concluded by stating that the Department had just gone through an interview process to fill recent vacancies in the Department and had a current list of qualified officers. As a result, he would be prepared to make job offers immediately following

any Council approval. The goal would be to have the new officers in place prior to the upcoming holiday shopping season.

Councilmember Grissom made a motion to recommend the Council approve the hiring of additional officers. Councilmember Greenwood seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, with a 3-0 result, and the motion was approved. [Note: Chief Johnson left the meeting, at this point.]

2. General Fund Excess Fund Reserves

Mr. Herring stated that quantifying future Capital needs, as outlined in Mr. Geisel's memo, was time well spent and that, regardless of specific Council action, the City is now in a better position to prioritize large future expenditures now than it was prior to this process. He again commended Mr. Geisel, Chief Johnson, Mr. Eckrich and Mr. Whittle for their efforts in preparing the list of projects and quantifying the total cost. Mr. Herring also again reminded everyone that the General Fund was simply not in a position to fund these types of expenditures. As was pointed out at the last F&A Committee meeting, the current sales tax law requires that most of the sales tax revenue generated by the Outlet Malls will go to other jurisdictions

Mr. Geisel again summarized the specific recommendations contained within his memo. A discussion ensued regarding the proposed Veteran's Memorial. Both Mr. Herring and Mr. Geisel apologized for the fact that this "funding" discussion was taking place prior to the discussion involving the project itself, which is scheduled for Monday, September 16. Following additional discussion, Mr. Herring expressed his thanks for the time and consideration given by this Committee, to this proposal. He acknowledged that it appears that the creation of this "FUND" is not supported by this Committee. He stated that he would work with Staff to present a proposal to City Council, at the Budget Workshop, to fund the 2014 Capital Project priorities, which Mr. Geisel and others have already identified, with excess Fund Reserves. In doing so, City Council will be able to evaluate fully how best to fund those projects. Chairperson Casey concurred and there was general concurrence by all other Committee members.

5. Life Insurance – Mayor/City Councilmembers/Certain Appointed Officials

Chairperson Casey noted that the issue had been tabled at the previous meeting.

Mr. Herring recapped the history of this benefit, stating that the Mayor, all City Council members, Municipal Judge, Prosecuting Attorney and City Attorney have all been eligible to receive a term life insurance benefit, since mid-2008. He stated that the benefit was put in place following the shootings in Kirkwood. He stated the annual cost to provide this benefit to the Mayor and Council is approximately \$1,500 - \$1,700/year. He said the level of coverage is \$100,000 but decreases with age. He noted that three current Councilmembers have elected not to receive the benefit and those were the only three since 2008 who have not elected to have the coverage.

Councilmember Greenwood inquired if this was a budget line item, which was confirmed by Mr. Herring. He further clarified that, when this benefit was first made available, along with a variety of security enhancements enacted at the same time, the cost was simply “absorbed” by the FY2008 Budget. This expense was fully-budgeted in all subsequent fiscal year budgets.

Councilmember Grissom made a motion to hold discussion on the issue and incorporate the discussion into the 2014 budget process. The motion was then seconded by Councilmember Greenwood. A voice vote was taken, with a 3-0 result, and the motion was approved

6. Council and Mayoral Compensation

Mayor Nation stated that compensation paid to the Mayor and Councilmembers had remained unchanged since May of 1990: \$500 per month for Councilmembers and \$1000 per month for the Mayor. Per Missouri State statute, Mayor Nation noted that, should this Committee endorse an increase in compensation for the City’s elected officials and if it would then be approved by City Council, those changes would not take effect until after each current elected official stands for re-election. When questioned as to how much the compensation should increase, Mayor Nation suggested a new rate of \$625/month for Councilmembers and \$1500-\$1800/month for the Mayor.

General discussion followed. Councilmember Greenwood commented that she was not supportive of any increases. Following additional comments, Mr. Herring offered to evaluate the survey information that he had provided to the Mayor and City Councilmembers, prior to this meeting. That information dealt with the current compensation paid to elected officials in those cities with professional administrators. He suggested that he could then determine if the City of Chesterfield officials were currently in the “Top Five”. Mr. Herring noted that the Mayor/City Councilmembers had consistently supported setting pay grades, for employees, such that the City was in the “Top Five” for all positions. There was general consensus that Mr. Herring complete that evaluation and report back to the Committee with his findings.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Casey adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.