



City of West Allis

7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

Meeting Minutes

Administration & Finance Committee

Aldersperson Kurt E. Kopplin, Chair

Aldersperson Vincent Vitale, Vice-Chair

Alderspersons: Thomas G. Lajsic, Richard F. Narlock, Rosalie L. Reinke

Monday, October 12, 2009

6:00 PM

West Allis City Hall Room 128

REGULAR MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kopplin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Ald. Kopplin, Ald. Lajsic, Ald. Narlock and Ald. Reinke

Excused: 0

Absent: 1 - Ald. Vitale

Others Attending

Mayor Devine; Mark Schaaf, West Allis NOW; Police Union Members Jim Schumitsch, Phil LaSpisa, Tom Carr, Dion Volk, Carrie Kielley, Michael Gyurina, Brian Duerr, Mark Sura, Paul Rosen; Police Chief Mike Jungbluth; Deputy Chief Jerry Ponzi; Fire Chief Steve Hook; Assistant Fire Chief Gary Streicher; Paul M. Ziehler, City Administrative Officer; Gary Schmid, Manager of Finance; Audrey Key, HR Manager

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ald. Narlock, seconded by Ald. Lajsic, to approve the Regular meeting minutes of August 10, 2009, Recess meeting minutes of September 1, 2009, September 15, 2009, October 6, 2009; and Recess Closed Session meeting minutes of September 1, 2009. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Aye: 4 - Ald. Kopplin, Ald. Lajsic, Ald. Narlock and Ald. Reinke

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Ald. Vitale

D. NEW AND PREVIOUS MATTERS

1. [2009-0636](#)

2010 City of West Allis Mayor's Recommended Budget.

Chair Kopplin introduced this item and mentioned the Police Union had requested the opportunity to comment on the Mayor's Recommended Budget. Mr. LaSpisa appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Union to express the Union's concerns with the Police Dept. budget with respect to proposed contract changes. The Police Union does not understand why there is such a hurry to bargain on this issue when these budget issues do not affect the 2010 or 2011 budgets. The Mayor's Recommended budget includes cuts to only the Police Department if the Union does not vote to accept the contract changes for 2011. They have great concerns about safety issues and request that no cuts be made to the Police budget in this regard. He mentioned the 2002 negotiations and Police Union arbitration and the fact that other monies had been found in the past to address budget issues. The Committee thanked Mr. LaSpisa for his comments.

Next, Chair Kopplin said an overview of the budget will be given by staff, and he invited the Mayor for his comments. Mayor Devine said this is a difficult budget with revenues down in

certain specific areas, including permits, interest income, and State funding. This is a budget that covers and provides City services our residents want.

Mr. Ziehler then spent time reviewing the front "blue section" of the budget, referring to the Mayor's letter at the front and pointing out various spending/levy increases. Next, the Summary Highlights of the budget were reviewed, including revenue decreases/increases and new revenues recommended. These include: (1) Voluntary PILOTS (payments in lieu of taxes) of \$1,000 through a letter campaign; (2) Instituting a Landlord Tenant/Owner Fee to realize \$90,000 through the development of a data base with contact information for commercial, industrial, and residential properties; and (3) Reserves Applied in the amount of \$1.3 million. Next, Mr. Ziehler referred to the changes totaling \$262,350 in reductions made by the Mayor to budgets submitted by departments. He referred to the listing of expenditure changes and the service effect/impact. He spent some time reviewing the major changes as follows:

1. Police Department - \$290,550 decrease to the Police Dept. for grant credit, part-time dispatch, overtime, vehicle repair, postage, other materials, printing, and new vehicles. It was noted that the amounts in the Police Dept. cut were done because of one significant increase throughout the budget. Also, five union positions may be cut beginning January 1, 2010 if the 2011 Police Union contract is not agreed to.

2. Planning - \$10,000 is added for general city planning staff time (.1 FTE) because of the need to continue to increase General Fund support of the Planning budget over the next few years based on the high level of CDBG support and compared to other cities our size.

3. Public Works/Library - one position in each Department is eliminated (Inventory Division position and Library Technician position).

4. Employee Fringe Benefits - Small increases for health, dental, and life insurance costs should be sufficient if good experience continues for health costs. However, State pension contribution rates increased significantly which has a large budgetary effect.

5. Debt Fund - Moderate increase in debt for TIFs because of higher repayment of principal and interest.

6. Enterprise Funds - Some rate increases are included, which leads to higher charges for customer use.

Mr. Ziehler also reviewed the Summary section, which includes the revenue, spending, and tax rate figures. City spending is up 2.44% and the tax rate is increasing from \$8.70 to \$8.94, or \$.24 (2.76%).

Finally, Mr. Ziehler referred to several specific pages in the blue section and detail section of the budget, pointing out items of interest. Staff responded to questions/comments from Committee members throughout the review session. Mr. Ziehler also mentioned that the public hearing on the budget will be held November 3 and projected budget adoption date is November 17. Ald. Narlock suggested that each Alderperson thoroughly review the budget. Ald. Reinke asked if the assessed value goes down, what is the affect on the budget? Mr. Ziehler said the rate would go up, but taxes remain in the same place. What changes taxes paid, regardless of value and rates, is whether spending goes up.

No further questions or comments were offered, and Mr. Ziehler suggested that as the Committee reviews the budget and if there are further questions, to either contact him or each Department directly for specific details. Or, if the Committee would like a Department to appear at a future meeting, that can also be arranged.

Held

E. OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

- 1. Discussion/Action on Items by Alderpersons.**
- 2. Discussion/Action on Items by City Administrative Officer.**
- 3. Other.**
 - a. Special Joint Meeting with Board of Public Works.

Mr. Ziehler said all alderpersons have been polled on possible dates for a joint meeting with Administration & Finance Committee and the Board of Public Works to discuss the organizational structure of the City with respect to the Public Works Dept. and the Engineering Dept. The meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 19, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting notices will be sent with a copy of the report early this week.

F. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ald. Narlock, seconded by Ald. Reinke, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.