

BUDGET WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Snow, Ed Barlow and Juan Topete. Ray West was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Administrator Tom Short, City Clerk Traci Cox, Fire Chief Roger Williams, Council Members Ed Barlow and Ceri Otero and Abi Almandinger and Bren Flanigan.

Mr. Snow called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting:** Mr. Topete made a motion to approve the minutes for the previous Budget Meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
2. **Consider and discuss engagement of Baker Tilly: Proposed Municipal Advisory Services – Consulting Services Related to the American Rescue Plan (“ARP”).** *“Attached is an updated proposal supplied by our Financial Advisors which includes an Engagement letter and the Scope of Services to assist the City in Compliance and Reporting requirements under, and related to the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”). Also included is correspondence regarding possible changes requested by the City. As the ARPA program will be in existence and continue over a number of years, it was felt that it was to the City’s advantage to hire a consultant to help monitor and advice on the program. The consulting fees for this program are an allowable expense of ARPA funds under the guidelines. This will also be forwarded to the Council for first reading at the October 12, 2021 Council meeting so we can expedite the process as quickly as possible to coincide with the ARPA Budget Calendar.”*

Mr. Short explained the contract has a not-to-exceed clause of \$15,000. Mr. Topete moved to send the contract to Council for approval. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Staff Reports.**
 - a. **Sales Tax Report;** included is the Sales Tax Report for October 2021. The report indicates that the positive trend we had seen is continuing. October’s receipts for the 1% General Fund was up 4.4% from last year.
 - b. **Budget Reports September:** As of the date and time this packet was distributed, the unaudited monthly budget reports for September 2021, including the **Summary Unaudited Revenue & Expenditure Report, the Unaudited Revenue & Expenditure Report for the Departments and the Non-departmental Report, and the Pooled Investment Report**, were still being processed. The intent is to bring the reports, etc., to the meeting when they are available and report on them.
 - c. In addition to reviewing the City **utilization figures for the Group Health plan**, Traci met with Beimdiek Insurance Agency (BIA) about our **Health Insurance** policy renewal. They visited about an Anthem renewal. Traci asked BIA to go back to Anthem and negotiate further regarding possible reductions concerning premiums. They have been able to negotiate with Anthem to tentatively receive a slightly more than a 2% (2.45%) increase in our renewal rate for January 2022.

This is a tentative number and is awaiting finalization from Anthem. We budgeted a 7% increase for the Fiscal 21-22 Budget. When the rate is finalized, it will go to CIAC and the Council for finalization. Traci can report further on this at the meeting.

- d. The **Economic Development Committee** met a couple of weeks ago. There is on-going interest in Myers Park property. The Committee discussed possible allocation of land based on revenues generated and possible subdivision of existing land to accommodate potential development. This will be reported on further at the meeting.
- e. Public Works reported that they are still awaiting receipt of proper files regarding the 2020 Census and the City's re-districting needs. It was mentioned that the City needs to complete its work before candidates begin filing for office in January.

Mr. Short reported on sales tax revenues, financial reports, Myers Park interest, census redistricting, possible purchase of the Salvation Army building, and delay of use tax expenditures until the next fiscal year. Ms. Cox reported on employee health insurance utilization and renewal rates.

2. Other Business.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM on motion by Mr. Barlow.

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Cox