

CITY COUNCIL
AND
CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE

Budget and Finance

Monday, June 29, 2009 – 7:10 p.m.

Council Conference Room – City Hall

Attendance: Councilor Jason Grow, Chair, Councilor Joe Ciolino, Vice Chair, Councilor Steve Curcuru

Also: Jim Duggan, Jeff Towne, Marcia McInnis, Chief Dench, Greg Verga, Carl Richardson, Councilors Jackie Hardy, Sharon George, Phil Devlin, Sefatia Romeo Theken, John “Gus” Foote,

Absent:

The meeting is called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Three Special Budget Transfer Requests

Request the Transfer be \$25,000 not \$23,000.

Phil Dench, Fire Chief stated this is to purchase two thermal imaging cameras. The existing two cameras no longer work. He would like to plan for the future to put one on each vehicle.

Councilor Hardy stated the total amount available is \$28,946 and asked why we aren't transferring all of that for equipment.

Jim Duggan, CAO replied the transfer is based on the priorities of the after action report.

Councilor Hardy would like the remaining balance to go to equipment for the Fire Department.

Mr. Duggan noted the remaining balance will fall to free cash.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Ciolino the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council Transfer 09-51 in the amount of \$25,000 from Fire Department Salary/Wage Permanent Positions to Fire Department, Other Equipment Maintenance for the purchase of two thermal imaging cameras. FIRE DEPARTMENT.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Ciolino the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council Transfer 09-52 in the amount of \$1,500 from Treasurer Legal Services to Treasurer Non-Contributory Pensions. TREASURER

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Ciolino the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council Transfer 09-53 in the amount of \$48,449 from DPW Sewer Enterprise, Reserve For Capital Outlay to DPW Wastewater Treatment Plan Sewer Equipment Maintenance. DPW

Discussion. Councilor Hardy asked if we are looking to the Fiesta Committee for more money.

Mr. Duggan asked them to maintain what they have contributed in the past, \$5,000.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Ciolino the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council Transfer 09-54 in the amount of \$1,076.28 from Police Administration, Salary Wage Overtime to Police Uniform, Contractual Services to cover Fiesta police detail. POLICE

Discussion. Councilor Grow asked for a report of what has been spent on police detail for Fiesta in the past.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Ciolino the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council Transfer 09-55 from Police Uniform, Salary Wage Overtime Beach to Police Uniform, Contractual Services to cover Fiesta police detail. POLICE

2. Memo from CFO re: Approval of Appropriation for School Department

Jeff Towne, CFO explained the history of this which began 10/9/07 with a vote of the City Council, transferring excess proceeds from projects to fund the modular classrooms at the time. The transfer amounts never were taken out to post to fund the new projects. The authorizations are being posted up to the amount left in the funds but there is an additional deficit amount of \$1,000 that will be adjusted next year. These two funds are the same length of time as the others. The School Department agrees - so there are no deficits in the capital fund budgets for the schools with the exception of the \$1,000.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Ciolino the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council appropriate the sum of \$19,478.88 for the purpose of Boiler Replacement – School Department (Fund 300068) to cover a deficit in this fund; to raise this appropriation \$19,478.88 shall be transferred in the amounts set forth below from the following unexpended proceeds of the City’s bonds and/or note issues, said sums representing excess bond and/or note proceeds remaining following the completion/closing of the respective projects for which such bonds and/or notes were issued:

\$ 1,986.88 Loan #08-04b Issued June 30, 2008 (BAN)

\$17,492.00 Loan #05-13 Issued June 30, 2005 (BAN)

3. Memo from Fire Chief re: FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Construction Grant

Carl Richardson, Richardson Development has been hired as a Grant Writer for the city. Homeland Security has made available the FEMA American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grant (\$210 million available strictly to build fire stations). He has been retained by the city to write three grants over the summer on a contract basis. This is a highly competitive grant but he feels we have a good shot at it because Gloucester is a distressed community in transition because of the fishing industry. \$15 million is available for each application, up to \$5 million per project. So a large city like Los Angeles could build three fire stations at \$5 million each. We have the opportunity of using some of the property located adjacent to the Fuller School. The School Committee has declared that property surplus contingent that any funding secured be used to build the fire stations. If this grant doesn’t pan out we will look elsewhere for funding. One of the requirements of the grant is that the city put up a contribution and that is the reason for the city putting up the property but there has to be some evidence that the property cannot be used for anything but the Fire station.

Councilor Hardy asked if we could add on to the building once built.

Mr. Richardson replied this grant money is specific to the fire station. It does not pay for personnel, public safety or any part of the fire station that could be used for any other public purpose. The grant does include sleeping quarters and a kitchen. The grant will also buy all kitchen appliances.

Councilor Ciolino noted this falls on the same line as the grant for the police/harbor boat.

Councilor Grow asked if the committing of the property for this purpose is beyond the scope of this grant.

Mr. Richardson replied FEMA expects between \$5,000 and \$10,000 applications. He feels a great number will be written by fire chiefs and not professional grant writers. He feels the real competition is between 800 to 1000 applications. He has received background information from Municipal Resources, who is presently conducting the public safety audit for the city. He also added that applicants with plans already drawn up will have a leg up.

Councilor Curcuru asked how long this grant has been available.

Mr. Richardson replied two and one half weeks. It is the recovery act grant – this is the fourth one he has done and there is a turnaround time of 30 to 45 days. Much of this money will be gone by late October of this year.

Councilor Curcuru asked who is ultimately making the decision on this.

Mr. Richardson stated the ultimate responsibility is the head of the Assistance to the Fire Fighters at FEMA. We will get support letters from representatives and senators.

Councilor Foote asked when this is all complete what will it take to run it as far as personnel.

Chief Dench replied this will just take the place of headquarters.

Councilor Grow asked about non-eligible costs and how we are going to cover those.

Councilor Romeo Theken spoke in support of the grant.

Councilor Grow stated we have a facilities committee analyzing the facilities, public safety audit and asked what happens if we create a situation where we effectively ruin the functionality of Fuller as a school and we need to use it as a school in the future.

Greg Verga, School Committee Chair replied that was a question posed at the School Committee. The school committee never supported a mega school and if the “doomsday scenario” becomes a reality, then we will come up with a solution that is not a mega school.

Mr. Richardson only has 11 days to submit this grant.

Councilor Romeo Theken asked does the grant say it has to be that piece of land. What if we shift the piece of land.

Mr. Richardson stated you have to show real commitment with a piece of land. You would have to renegotiate the entire grant.

Councilor Romeo Theken feels it depends on where you move the location.

Mr. Richardson replied if we get the grant, we can write to the Federal government requesting to relocate the site, as long as the city owns the property.

Councilor Hardy stated the school committee voted the field surplus.

Mr. Verga added with the contingency that it be used for a fire station. He went on to explain that in order to get the committee to agree – it was a compromise. If this falls apart maybe it is an opportunity for us to take it back and rethink the situation.

Councilor Hardy stated if it is surplus, then it is up to the city council to decide what is done with it.

Discussion. Councilor Grow asked is the grant writer being compensated through this grant.

Mr. Richardson is being compensated through a grant from the Board of Health.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Grow , seconded by Councilor Ciolino the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed that the city proceed in applying for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Budrow

Clerk of Committees