

Finance Committee Meeting March 20, 2013

The **Finance Committee** met March 20, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room. Present were Chairperson Mark Ahner, Committee Members John Uden, Bill Melnik and Roxanna Brush and Councilperson Sue Galbraith.

Also present were Mayor C. A. Grenz, City Planner Dianna Broadie, Historic Preservation Officer Connie Muggli and Recorder Deputy City Clerk Connie Watts.

Review Bids for Lease of City Property at Industrial Site

Five proposals were received for the leasing of Lots 28-32, Tract E, of the Industrial Site, as set out on the attached spreadsheet. Nolley's Welding was the high bidder at \$1,850 per year for each lot.

****** *After brief discussion, Committee Member Brush moved to recommend acceptance of the proposal from Nolley's Welding, seconded by Committee Member Uden and passed unanimously, 4-0.*

Review Draft of FY 2012-2013 Interlocal Agreement with Custer County

Chairperson Ahner said he had visited with the County Commissioners, and they have asked for a couple of small revisions in the draft Agreement, as follows:

P.2, Section 4: COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES: Paragraph A: 2nd

Sentence: "This contract is for inspection services only and does not include repairs or maintenance, except as noted below."

4th Sentence: "County shall ~~have the responsibility of conduction~~ reimburse the City for any necessary repairs or maintenance."

P. 4, Section 8: TERMINATION: "This Agreement.....June 30, 2013; however, by mutual written consent of the City and County, this Agreement may be extended by an additional sixty (60) days.

Chairperson Ahner said the Commissioners have indicated that they are prepared to accept this Agreement, and could adopt it at their meeting on March 28th, if the City Council approves it on March 26th.

****** *After brief discussion, Chairperson Ahner moved to recommend adoption of the draft Interlocal Agreement for FY 2012-2013, with the changes previously discussed,*

and that a resolution to that effect be presented at the next Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Melnik and passed unanimously, 4-0.

Discussion of Preliminary Fee Schedule for Historic Preservation Services

Preservation Officer Muggli's intent is to try to establish funding that would increase the visibility of the efforts and actions of the Historic Preservation Office. Other than grants, she is proposing to bring in additional revenue by charging for services of the Historic Preservation Office. She also talked about tax credits for businesses, as well as environmental assessment and clean-up funds that may be available for historic properties. She is also going to explore the possibility of finding a grant for funding operating expenses for the Historic Preservation Office.

Preservation Officer Muggli guided the Committee through two spreadsheets that she distributed – the Budget Analysis Projections for 2013 and the Proposed Budget for 2013-2014. Current funding consists of a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office and a match from the City, and is sufficient to cover salary only. By charging fees for services provided to the public and as part of the city permitting process, revenues may be increased in order to cover operating expense as well. Examples of current services that other Historic Preservation Offices in the state charge for include: Preparing National Register Nominations, historical research, design reviews, and administrative costs like photocopies and printing.

Historic Preservation and Brownfields Tax Credits are available for qualifying local businesses. Historic Preservation Tax credits are 25% of construction costs, and are available as soon as construction is completed. Brownfields Tax Credits are dollar for dollar of the cost of remediation for qualifying sites. Many of the historic buildings in the Historic District in Miles City are eligible for the tax credits, which would help make it financially feasible to preserve or renovate historic buildings for new businesses in the downtown area.

All of Riverside Park is considered a significant property with respect to the Main Street Historic District, as it was Fort Keogh's ferryboat landing.

These facts are unknown to most people. Preservation Officer Muggli reiterated that these are the types of things the Historic Preservation Commission wants to let people know about. There is no funding, however, for any type of publicity, which is why she is looking at different revenue options. She will meet with the Commission to work on adopting a fee schedule.

Discussion of Swimming Pool Facility

Chairperson Ahner noted that the City has set aside \$15,000 in the Capital Improvement Program for roofing for the bath house, and Sigrid Laird has collected

almost \$10,000 for improvements. Mrs. Laird is concerned that, if no progress is made on the swimming pool improvements, she will have to return the donations.

Chairperson Ahner directed the committee's attention to the handout, Page 1 of which is a "contractor's letter" and which sets out the specifications for the roof. The second page is a listing of the local building and roofing contractors. Director Allen Kelm has sent this letter out to the contractors on the list. If anyone has any other contractors he or she feels should be notified, Chairperson Ahner asked that Director Kelm be contacted.

Committee Member Uden asked Director Muggli if there might be anything available to help with the renovation of the swimming pool. Ms. Muggli will do some exploration in this regard. Mr. Uden also wondered if City Hall might qualify for some historic funding. Ms. Muggli noted that CTEP has a historic preservation category and some City properties might be eligible for funding through that category.

Request of Citizens

-None

Adjournment

Having no more business to come before the Committee,

*** Committee Member Uden moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member Melnik. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Chairperson Mark Ahner


Deputy City Clerk Connie Watts