

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 23, 2011

The City Council Finance Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met immediately after the Council Study Session scheduled at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Study Session Room on the 23rd day of March, 2011, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Members Dillingham, Quinn, and Chair Cubberley

ABSENT: Member Ezzell

OTHERS PRESENT: Cindy Rosenthal, Mayor
Al Atkins, Council Member
Rachel Butler, Council Member
Jim Griffith, Council Member
Steve Lewis, City Manager
Anthony Francisco, Finance Director
Suzanne Krohmer, Budget Manager
Roger Gallagher, Council Member-elect
Dave Spaulding, Council Member-elect
Ken Komiske, Utilities Department Director
Shawn O'Leary, Public Works Department Director
Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney II
Bob Hanger, Storm Water Engineer
Greg Hall, Street Superintendent

DISCUSSION REGARDING OUTSIDE AGENCY FUNDING LEVELS FOR FYE 2012

City of Norman revenues are up slightly – rise in gas prices will impact collections.

Cubberley suggested that lobbying firm, Capitol Decisions, be eliminated and save approximately \$80,000. No earmarks in Congress, so no need for lobbyist.

Dillingham – agreed with eliminating lobbyist.

Quinn – Even with no earmarks, City still needs a presence in Washington to represent out interests.

Rosenthal – issues will fall through cracks without lobbyist. The lobbyist has worked on fixing “CART issue” and “Chromium-6 issue”.

Atkins – Is it possible to reduce amount of contract?

Finance Committee in agreement to continue services with Capitol Decisions lobbying firm.
Cubberley – Do we want to maintain same level of funding for FYE 12 for the outside agencies?

Dillingham – wants to increase funding for CCFI and SVS as there are more people in community needing help.

Atkins – wants agencies in city-owned facilities to pick up the cost of the utilities.

Dillingham – Fire House Art Center and Sooner Theatre – try to have them pay utilities. Historical House – check with Cleveland County about the possibility of paying.

Griffith – pay percent of utilities and increase percentage paid by agency over time.

Dillingham – agencies need to be encouraged to grow their funding possibilities.

Finance Committee in agreement to keep Agency funding level for FYE 12 the same as FYE 11, remain flat. Agencies will be notified beginning with FYE 13 they will be expected to pay 20% of their utilities cost, phasing in to 100% over five years (20% in FYE 13; 40% in FYE 14; 60% in FYE 15; 80% in FYE 16; and 100% beginning in FYE 17). Agencies will be provided usage history so they can plan. City will continue to provide maintenance on City-owned buildings to protect assets.

Items submitted for the record

1. Outside Agency Funding List prepared by Finance Department

CONTINUED DISCUSSION CONCERNING ALTERNATIVES TO BULKY WASTE DISPOSAL

Cubberley – rate increases were voted in by the citizens with new rates to begin April 1, 2011. Citizens have asked if Spring Cleanup will be held this year. How can City address the needs of the citizens?

Komiske – some ideas are to leave Transfer Station open for 3 to 4 “free weekends” per month; bulk pickup service at residences will cost individuals. Transfer Station is open on Saturdays 8-4 now. Leave open 8-1 pm on these designated Saturdays.

Cubberley – Look at bulk pickup costs and revise to break even – 4 times on weekends – start in mid-April.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED STORM WATER UTILITY

City is moving toward a Policy for Storm Water Utility. City staff needs to know what the Council is thinking on this issue.

- Discussed current budget and where we might capture funds for this utility.
- Discussion of comparative cities and what services they offer and the charges for services.
- Shawn O’Leary reviewed “Excerpt from Storm Water Master Plan”
- Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) basis is recommended, no exceptions

Rosenthal – Exemption credits for those that have put in detention facilities, etc. Policy alternatives – full or partial credit to additions, commercial properties taking care of storm water runoff.

Cubberley – Exception issues (schools, OU, institutions, rain barrels, French drain to garden) – rain gardens. Cost factor – dredging of detention ponds included? Include enhanced maintenance of storm water. List of issues – structural controls, identify pre, post – 82 issues in all.

Dillingham – how we will approach issues. Look for policy examples at other cities. How much is OU's bill going to be - OU has Phase II program. Westside WalMart will be \$1,600 per month and Sooner Fashion Mall will be \$2,700 per month. State/county/federal facilities – how will they be handled?

Items submitted for the record

1. Storm Water – Inter-City Comparison prepared by Finance Department
2. Storm Water Division Summary, FYE 11 Budget, pages 244 and 245
3. Excerpt from Storm Water Master Plan Final Report, dated November 2009

DISCUSSION REGARDING REVENUE/EXPENDITURE REPORT

Residential and Sanitation forecasting tweak.

Items submitted for the record

1. Summary of Major Funds-General; Capital; Westwood; Water; Wastewater; Sewer Maintenance; New Development Excise; Sewer Sales Tax; and Sanitation Fund Revenue Sources vs. Budget, Financial Report dated February 28, 2011

DISCUSSION REGARDING REPORT ON OPEN POSITIONS

No discussion on report.

Items submitted for the record

1. City of Norman/Human Resources Department Recruitment and Selection Report dated March 14, 2011

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor