

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved May 7, 2019

MINUTES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 14, 2019

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Roll call found Aldermen Chassee, Dimas, Ferguson, Sheahan, Stout and Swiatek present. Alderman Ligino-Kubinski was absent.

Staff in attendance: City Administrator Michael Guttman, Administrative Services Director Linda Martin, Public Works Director Rob Flatter, and Assistant Administrative Services Director Nikki Giles.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Finance Committee Meeting of December 13, 2018.

Alderman Swiatek moved and Alderman Stout seconded a motion to approve. The minutes were approved as presented by voice vote.

3. Public Participation / Presentations - None

4. Selection of Vice Chairman

Alderman Stout nominated Alderman Chassee for Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee and Alderman Swiatek seconded the motion to approve. The nomination was approved by a voice vote.

5. Items for Consent

- A. Ordinance No. 19-O-0009 – Project Carryover Budget Amendment
- B. Resolution No. 19-R-0014 – Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast of Illinois/Ohio/Oregon, LLC
- C. Resolution No. 19-R-0016 – Host Community Benefit Agreement with Lakeshore Recycling Systems
- D. Direction to Staff – Pursue a Line of Credit with MB Financial Bank

Alderman Stout moved and Vice Chairman Chassee seconded a motion to approve Consent Items A – D. The motion was approved as presented by a roll call vote.

6. Items for Discussion

A. Water and Sewer Rates

City Administrator Guttman opened the discussion with the fact that water and sewer rates have not been increased in 12 years for water and 10 years for sewer. Mr. Guttman recommends that both water and sewer be raised 25%. After looking at other municipalities in the area, the increase would put the city on the low end for water rates and the higher end for sewer rates.

City Administrator Guttman is looking to the aldermen for guidance with regard to an increase of water and sewer rates.

Vice Chairman Chassee said that she will not support raising it 25% all at once, but is not opposed to the rates being raised incrementally, such as spreading the increase out over three years. Alderman Swiatek asked if the 25% is the final number that we need to get to and by when. He asked if 25% is enough in 3 years or will the city need to do this again. City Administrator Guttman was not able to say that he won't have to come back again to ask for more of an increase. He would like to start the increase July 1 of 2019. City Administrator Guttman suggested that the city come up with a plan that is revisited each year to review the terms and circumstances. Alderman Ferguson understands the need for the increase and he would like to see it done incrementally for 2 to 3 years. He wants to make sure that we are fiscally responsible and understand that there are residents on a fixed income. Alderman Swiatek recommended raising the rates 10% the first year, 10% the third year and maybe an odd percentage the fifth year giving the residents the opportunity to adjust to the new rates on the off years. City Administrator Guttman would like to consider 15% now and 10% next year. Vice Chairman Chassee states there would need to be a significant education piece with a breakdown of what 15% would cost the average resident. Chairman Dimas said that a letter should go out with the reason for the increase as well as the comparison to other cities in the area. Mr. Guttman said that we would use social media and the website to announce and educate. He will have the scenario worked out over the next two years to present at the next Finance Committee Meeting with a July 1, 2019 start. Alderman Stout would like to see what the impact would be.

7. Unfinished Business - None

8. New Business - None

9. Reports from Staff – None

10. Executive Session (if needed) – None

11. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Chassee moved and Alderman Stout seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacki Stern