



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021, 4:30 PM
Virtual Meeting. Public may join via Zoom.

A. ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION.

I. This item contains documents which provide call in information and instructions for the Zoom meeting.

B. ROLL CALL.

I. Members: Ald. Barbara Dorff, Ald. Veronica Corpus-Dax, Ald. Bill Galvin & Ald. Brian Johnson.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Ald. Brian Johnson, seconded by Ald. Veronica Corpus-Dax to approve. Motion carried.
Yes- Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Brian Johnson, Veronica Corpus-Dax

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Moved by Ald. Brian Johnson, seconded by Ald. Veronica Corpus-Dax to approve. Motion carried.
Yes- Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Brian Johnson, Veronica Corpus-Dax

I. Approval of the Finance Committee minutes from the March 23, 2021 meeting.

Moved by Ald. Brian Johnson, seconded by Ald. Bill Galvin to approve. Motion carried.
Yes- Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Brian Johnson, Veronica Corpus-Dax

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. A request by Ald. Brunette to the Finance Committee which states: "To approve the funding required to have an outside Human Resource Department or consultant review the workplace complaint of the former City Clerk in order to report to the City Council."

Moved by Ald. Brian Johnson, seconded by Ald. Veronica Corpus-Dax to receive and place on file. Motion carried.

Yes- Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Brian Johnson

2. Request with possible action to approve resolution in support of a strong state and local partnership and increased state budget funding for the shared revenue program.

Moved by Ald. Brian Johnson, seconded by Ald. Bill Galvin to approve as amended. Motion carried.

Yes- Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Brian Johnson

F. INFORMATIONAL.

1. 1. 2021 Contingency Account:
\$150,000.00

2. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved by Ald. Barbara Dorff, seconded by Ald. Veronica Corpus-Dax to approve. Motion carried.

Yes- Barbara Dorff, Bill Galvin, Veronica Corpus-Dax, Brian Johnson

H. VERBATIM MINUTES.

- Here we go. Okay we should be good to go.

- [Barbara Dorff] You're ready? Okay. - Yes.

- [Barbara Dorff] So I will call the April, Tuesday, April 13th meeting of Finance to order at 4:30. Roll call, Alder Bill Galvin?

- [Bill Galvin] Here.

- [Barbara Dorff] Alder Corpus-Dax?

- [Veronica Corpus-Dax] Here.

- [Barbara Dorff] And Alder Brian Johnson?

- [Brian Johnson] Here, here.
- [Barbara Dorff] And Alder Dorff is here. So at this point, I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda.
- [Brian Johnson] So moved.
- [Veronica Corpus-Dax] Second.
- [Barbara Dorff] Move by Alder Johnson, second by Alder Corpus-Dax. All those in favor, say aye.
- [Group] Aye,
- [Barbara Dorff] Aye, opposed nay. Motion carries. Approval of the minutes.
- [Brian Johnson] Moved.
- [Veronica Corpus-Dax] Second. - [Bill Galvin] Second.
- [Barbara Dorff] Alder Johnson, second by Alder Galvin. All those in favor say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- [Barbara Dorff] Opposed nay. Motion carries, all right. Regular business. Are we going too fast for you, Diana? Are we okay?
- [Diana Ellenbecker] Just one moment please.
- [Barbara Dorff] I can't hear you. Your lips are moving, but no sound.
- [Diana Ellenbecker] Yep, okay, we're good to go, yes.
- [Barbara Dorff] Okay. All right, regular business. Number one, a request by Alder Brunette to the Finance Committee, which states: "To approve the fund, you're required to have an outside Human Resource Department or consultant review, the workplace complaint of the former City Clerk in order to report to the City Council." So I'm going to let Alder Brunette speak on this. Before he does, I want to say that I think we're putting the cart before the horse here, that I think we have to first deal with the personnel requests before we can deal with the finance request. And then that personnel request should go to, to Council whether we're going to have the investigation or not and then we should approve the funding. So those are my thoughts on it that we won't really be able to act on this tonight. But I'll entertain other thoughts and Alder Brunette would just speak to this.
- [Jesse Brunette] Yeah, and thank you Chairperson Dorff. To your point, Director Faulds did reach out to me by email to combine the two agenda items. And I was out of town and I did not respond to that email in time. So the attempt from city staff was to have that happen and I'll take responsibility that it did not, due to being out of town, respond in time for that to take place. So, I still think we could approve or at least discuss the possibility of funding, how much such an investigation would cost, has the city ever done this, have we ever consulted with outside Human Resources for issues that could be a conflict of interest? So, I think that would be a good place to start.
- [Brian Johnson] Alder Brunette, it, if I may ask, it seems to me that this is really just the funding mech- was a specific intent behind separating these items? And the reason I bring that up is because if all you're looking for here is the funding mechanism, could we not? It would seem to me to make sense, just to approve this

contingent on the action of the Personnel Committee. If the Personnel Committee says: "No, we're not gonna pursue it." Well, then you just disregard this. But if they say: "Yes, we're gonna pursue it", "got to have a way to fund it." So, or does that not make sense?

- [Jesse Brunette] Chairperson Dorff? Do you mind if I respond?

- [Barbara Dorff] Go ahead, respond.

- [Jesse Brunette] Yeah. So this happened when I attempted to get an outside legal opinion. I was told that it should go to Finance because we get the approval for an outside legal opinion from Finance. So that's why I placed this agenda item here. I agree with you Alder, Alderman Johnson, that if it's just funding, we, you can make a motion to base this decision off of what the decision of Personnel is. I don't know if I have the support of the committee. I mean, I fully acknowledge that, but it's your committee, so however you see fit.

- [Brian Johnson] Well, I'm just thinking it may, it doesn't make a ton of sense to go over, the merits of your request because that's more of a Personnel Committee thing. If this is exclusively about financing, let's just dispose of this item and take it up at Council. If it's required.

- [Jesse Brunette] Sounds fine to me.

- [Barbara Dorff] So what are you suggesting, yes of, Director Faulds?

- [Dir. Faulds] Sorry to jump in. I know Diana just, Director Ellenbecker just walked off. I talked to Director Ellenbecker, and if there was any funding for this, it'd come from Contingency.

- Mmm hmm.

- [Dir. Faulds] So, you all know that if there was, if they approve someone to look at it, it'll come from Contingency. So that's your information. I think we can talk about maybe even the cost at the Personnel Committee and the extent of the investigation, if one was approved.

- [Jesse Brunette] In which case then, if it's okay with the Chair I would just make a motion to receive and place on file, recognizing that this could get pulled at Council, if the Personnel Committee were to make a recommendation to pursue the hiring of an outside firm. Does that make sense?

- [Barbara Dorff] That makes sense to me. How about for the rest of the committee?

- [Veronica Corpus-Dax] Fine, I'll second it.

- [Barbara Dorff] Okay, all right. Motion received and placed in file, made by Alder Johnson, seconded by Elder Corpus-Dax. All those in favor, say aye.

- [Group] Aye.

- [Barbara Dorff] Aye, opposed nay. Motion carries. Thank you.

- [Jesse Brunette] Thank you.

- [Barbara Dorff] Number two, request with possible action to approve the resolution in support of a strong state and local partnership and increase state budget funding for the shared revenue program, staff.

- [Diana Ellenbecker] Yes. Within your packet, I had included some information. This is not something that I have typically done in the past but it was a strong recommendation from the League of Municipalities, to help

put a resolution through. Especially the larger cities within the state to have a resolution that we can send to our legislators and to help show the state that, you know, we really have seen a decrease in shared revenue over many, many years. And it's really just support saying, you know, we've been hurt over time and it really would be helpful if we had more of the budget allocated to shared revenues. So, it's really a resolution. There really is, it's really not gonna affect anything on our end. There's really not any more action we have to take other than if this gets approved through Finance and then through Council, we will just be sharing it with the League and we'll be sharing it with our legislators and potentially try to, you know, try to get- while they're still discussing the state budget. See if they're gonna, see if there's a way they, if this year or in the future rounds that they could increase our shared revenue. I mean, there was some information on there, as you had seen, there was a, at one point in time, shared revenue used to be higher than what we used to get in for taxes. As you see now where it's about only 50% of what we're getting in for taxes is now shared revenue. So it's been a big switch. Reduced money coming in from the state and relying more on other miscellaneous revenues or on taxes to cover our operational costs. So not sure if anyone has any questions on this.

- [Barbara Dorff] Do we have any questions? Alder Johnson.

- [Brian Johnson] Yeah, I mean, without trying to give our state legislature too much credit it almost seems like a strategic objective to force municipalities to not spend as much, right? And what I mean by that, is we're gonna shrink shared revenue. We're gonna impose levy limits. We're gonna impose expenditure restraint. And it's like the perfect storm to force local municipalities to cut spending, right? Because now you have no exit. So I can't help but wonder when looking at this resolution, the one thing that seemed to be missing and I'm a big believer of local control. I really don't like it when the state talks about local control, but then does all of these things that actually contradict that. And so what's missing to me in the resolution though, is just a draft from the League. Any reference to relieving some of the restrictions related to levy limits and expenditure restraint. So Director Ellenbecker, from your perspective, is that language that would be welcomed?

- [Diana Ellenbecker] Yes. We can modify anything within that resolution. Again, that was a very, template or a sample that came from the League, and then at any point they said, we should certainly modify it to have it meet the, you know, city of Green Bay's needs.

- [Brian Johnson] Okay, 'Cause it just feels to me like it's one of those things where we can say: "Hey, we want you to fix the shared revenue model but if you're not gonna do that, at least do this."

- [Barbara Dorff] Hmm. I mean, do we want to give them an out? Okay, go ahead Alder Galvin.

- [Bill Galvin] I'm gonna jump right in with Alder Johnson. You know, when I looked at the figures that Director Ellenbecker gave us, I was shocked. And I mean, I've, and personally I've seen- this at least, what was it 2008, or so. When the State Legislature and legislation has taken us down this road where they keep talking about, you know, the, everyone should have the ability to rule themselves, govern themselves, and at the same time, they're tying our hands behind our back. They're tying our fiscal strings. We've got people complaining at us, to us, about the deplorable state of our roads. I just saw some more on social media: "roads in Green Bay stink" again and all that kind of stuff. We know we've got other infrastructure, large infrastructure issues to deal with. Yet we're not in any position, we're not allowed to be in a position to do anything, to alleviate those problems. And, I agree, I think there ought to be, you know in that resolution a little bit more pointed conversation. You know, to really direct what we're looking for, which is either the, more shared revenue or the ability to do more for our municipalities, to raise the funds they need, to put their cities in a better position to take care of their constituents. Thank you.

- [Barbara Dorff] So thank you. So what I was gonna say to Alder Johnson, and I'll say to you too, is that that would be good but I'm afraid that they'll choose that as the option instead of, you know, wouldn't shared revenue be better for us than to give them the option of saying: "Oh, sure, go ahead raise your taxes and do those other-"

- [Bill Galvin] Yeah-

- [Barbara Dorff] I mean, I'm just wondering strategically, is it a good move to give them that kind of an option?

- [Bill Galvin] Yeah, to me it's, you'd have to word it properly, right? And, the wording of it is almost more of the, is in the recitals. Where it's a 'whereas', as opposed to-

- [Barbara Dorff] Okay.

- [Bill Galvin] a 'now therefore it be resolved', right? So you're saying "whereas,"-

- [Barbara Dorff] Okay, ahhhh!

- [Bill Galvin] We've imposed these- [Barbara Dorff] I see. - [Bill Galvin] restrictions, which is made- [Barbara Dorff] Yeah.

- [Bill Galvin] shared revenue even harder to tolerate.

- [Barbara Dorff] I like that. Now, yes, yes. 'Cause I guess I was thinking of it as a war for, 'be it resolved', for do this, or do that. But, you pointed out that now this is why things are so difficult. So am I missing anything? Alder Corpus-Dax, what do you think?

- [Veronica Corpus-Dax] I like the addition that Alder Johnson has recommended here.

- [Barbara Dorff] I like it as a 'whereas'. Should we let Diana work on that? Or when does this need to be in?

- I was gonna say we don't have a lot of time 'cause they're really looking at the state budget and I apologize for kind of bringing it to you last minute. It was one of those things that the League had been mentioning for about the last month. And then you know I kind of talked with the Mayor and Vanessa, or the city attorney, and just said, "Hey, what do you think, we should do this?" And they're like, "it's probably a good idea to send it through. It just may help." We were on the League of, Municipalities call today. And the, one of the representatives from the League says, "You know, we have about, a 40% chance that this shared revenue increase will go through in the budget because it is right now, in there." But you know, with the more support they have, the better chance if they start seeing another larger city asking for more support. So I apologize. I would almost prefer if we could come up with the 'whereas' here, where we kind of met a resolution,

- [Barbara Dorff] Okay.

- so that I can take it through the next council so we can get it, while they're still, because I think they have more budget meetings up until the end of April. And if we wait too long, it may be too late for this budget hearing. Doesn't mean we couldn't continue to do it, but I would ask maybe we could come up with the, 'whereas' here.

- [Barbara Dorff] I think Alder Johnson almost has a 'whereas' completed.

- Yep.

- [Barbara Dorff] Don't you Alder Johnson?

- [Brian Johnson] Yeah, I was starting to chicken, scratch something but now I'm gonna type it because I can do that faster.

- [Barbara Dorff] Okay. Just, we'll give him a minute to breathe because it's really just mentioning the three things, right? Which are, they've, we, the cap, right? Capping the levy-
- The Levy limit CAP, correct. So there's a levy limit. Then there's- -[Dorff] A levy limit.
- An expenditure restraint.
- [Barbara Dorff] Expenditure restraint. I thought there were three things. Is that it?
- The third one- -[Dorff] Levy limit, and expenditure restraint.
- Right, and then I guess the third one, in my eyes, would be, we can at times go over our levy limit with, either using an adjustment or through a referendum, you can go over your levy limit, but all that means is, you're gonna impose a much higher tax on your constituents, so- - [Barbara Dorff] Right.
- You know, you're not, what would be nice is if we got more money from the state, so we wouldn't have to impose as much tax increase on our taxpayers.
- [Barbara Dorff] And then, even whatever Alder Johnson comes up with now and if we pass it, we still could, if at Council, people have had more thoughts, we still could change a couple of words at Council. We could amend it. So it, all the pressure's not on you Alder Johnson.
- [Brian Johnson] I think I've got something here.
- [Barbara Dorff] Most of the pressure.
- [Brian Johnson] Now this is not gonna be perfect but I think it gets the point across. And we all know what happens to these resolutions anyway. So. So I have: "Whereas levy limits and expenditure restraint, combined with the reduction in shared revenue, restricts local government's ability to generate revenue sufficient to fund local municipal infrastructure projects in annual operating budgets."
- [Barbara Dorff] That's pretty darn good. I like it. What'd you guys think?
- [Veronica Corpus-Dax] Wanna shoot that to me in an email?
- [Brian Johnson] Sure will.
- I would be very content with that. That would allow us to move forward with it, and as Alder Dorff said, if for some reason in the next week, somebody wants to tweak that line or add something else, we certainly can, but that will help us, keep us moving forward to the Council and at least give us a chance to at least submit it to the state and to the League to help push us and try to, you know, help push to have the budget include at least some kind of increase in the shared revenue.
- [Barbara Dorff] All right. So is that, that's a motion or?
- [Lindsey Mather] Real quick-
- [Barbara Dorff] I guess first we're gonna move to amend the resolution right? Oh, I'm sorry, Lindsey?
- [Lindsey Mather] That's okay. Alder Johnson, do you have it put in the place where you would like it as well? Or do you guys want to figure that out as well?
- [Brian Johnson] I don't really care where it goes.

- [Barbara Dorff] Why don't you figure that out, Attorney Mather? Wherever it goes. - [L. Mather] Can do!
- [B. Dorff] So - [B.Johson] Okay, I sent it to you. - [B.Dorff] motion to amend as recommended?
- [L. Mather] Thank you.
- [Bill Galvin] Second. - [B. Dorff] Motion to-
- [Barbara Dorff] Okay. Motion to amend is recommended by Alder Johnson. Second by Alder Galvin. All those in favor of the amendment, say aye. [Group] Aye.
- [Barbara Dorff] Aye. Opposed nay. Okay that motion carries.
- [Veronica Corpus-Dax] Motion to approve as recommended or adopt?
- [Barbara Dorff] Adopt. Should we say adopt? Well, maybe approve 'cause only Council adopts resolutions right? Okay.
- [Bill Galvin] Right. Motion to approve as amended by Alder Corpus-Dax. Second by Alder Galvin. All those in favor say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- [Barbara Dorff] Aye. Opposed nay. That motion carries too. Thank you Alder Johnson and thank you staff. So let's get back to the agenda on. Okay. So informational contingency is at 150,000 still, and the next Finance Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 27th at 4:30 p.m. Is there anything else? Nope? All right. I'll entertain a motion for adjournment.
- [Group] So moved!
- [Barbara Dorff] Alder Johnson? Seriously. - [V. Corpus-Dax] Second.
- [Barbara Dorff] Second by Alder Corpus-Dax. All those in favor, say aye.
- [Group] Aye.
- [Barbara Dorff] Opposed nay, Motion carries. And we'll see you guys in five minutes. Personnel?
- [Dir. Faulds] Sure.
- [Barbara Dorff] What do you want? Five minutes? See you then.
- Thank you.