

CITY OF TWO RIVERS CITY COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING OF THE PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE & PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 3, 2021
6:00 PM
3rd Floor City Council Chamber – City Hall

Call to Order

The Personnel & Finance Committee was called to order by Committee Chairman Bittner at 6:06 PM. At that time there was not a quorum of the Public Utilities Committee Present

The Public Utilities Committee convened at 7:26PM upon the arrival of Bonnie Shimulunas.

Roll Call

Personnel & Finance Committee Members present were Mark Bittner, Adam Wachowski (arrived at 6:52 PM), and Jeff Dahlke.

Public Utilities Committee Members present were Bill LeClair and Bonnie Shimulunas (arrived at 7:26 PM). Jay Remiker was absent.

Others Present: Councilmember Tracey Koach

Members of City Staff present: Gregory Buckley, City Manager; David Buss, Finance Director; Ross Blaha, Water Utility Director; Dave Casebeer, Wastewater Superintendent; Brian Dellemann, Electric Utility Director; Scott Ahl, Civil Engineer; Jim McDonald, Public Works Director.

Review of Proposed Utility Fund Budgets for 2022

A. Solid Waste

Mr. Buckley and Public Works Director, Jim McDonald, reviewed the proposed 2022 Solid Waste budget including street sweeping and garbage and recyclables collection and disposal. Also noted was the positive experience the City has had with Manitowoc Disposal providing collection services. Mr. McDonald indicated that the City is reaching the end of the useful life on the street sweeper and replacement will be needed in the next couple years.

The history of the fund balance slowly decreasing in recent years was discussed. That fund balance is actually projected to increase in 2021, due to an increase in revenues from garbage stickers. Mr. Buckley noted that revenues from sticker fees have increased by about 20 percent, or \$80,000 annually, over 2019. He attributed this increase to more people staying home during the COVID pandemic and generating more household solid waste. While landfill volumes and related costs have increased, the increase has been more than offset by the growth in sticker fee revenue.

B. Wastewater

Mr. McDonald reviewed the proposed 2022 Wastewater budget along with Wastewater Superintendent Dave Casebeer and Civil Engineer Scott Ahl. Wastewater user fees were not increased in 2021, but it is anticipated that user fees will need to be increased soon to keep up with inflating costs of treatment. The budget was reviewed in detail by line item.

Personnel and Finance Committee motion by Wachowski, seconded by Bittner, to support the Solid Waste and Wastewater budgets and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Public Utilities Committee motion by Shimulunas, seconded by LeClair, to support the Solid Waste and Wastewater budgets and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

C. Stormwater

Mr. McDonald reviewed the proposed 2022 Stormwater budget in detail by line item.

Personnel and Finance Committee motion by Dahlke, seconded by Wachowski, to support the Stormwater budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Public Utilities Committee motion by Shimulunas, seconded by LeClair, to support the Stormwater budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

D. Electric

Brian Dellemann, Electric Utility Director, reviewed the proposed 2022 Electric budget. There are no increases to billing rates. The budget accounts for the probable retirement of one employee in mid-2022 with a two-month overlap with the new employee to ensure a smooth transition. Personnel costs include a 2% cost of living increase plus an additional increase for electric staff to keep pay rates competitive with comparable utilities after a review of wage studies. The additional increases are key to successful employee recruitment and retention, which is consistent with City goals and objectives. The budget was reviewed in detail by line item.

Personnel and Finance Committee motion by Wachowski, seconded by Dahlke, to support the Electric budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Public Utilities Committee motion by Shimulunas, seconded by LeClair, to support the Electric budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

E. Telecommunications

Mr. Dellemann and Finance Director, Dave Buss, reviewed the proposed 2022 Telecommunications budget.

Personnel and Finance Committee motion by Wachowski, seconded by Dahlke, to support the Telecommunications budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Public Utilities Committee motion by Shimulunas, seconded by LeClair, to support the Telecommunications budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

F. Water

Ross Blaha, Water Utility Director, reviewed the proposed 2022 Water budget. There are no increases to billing rates and no changes to staffing levels. There is a 2% cost of living increase included for current employees. The budget includes the retirement of the Water Utility Director at mid-year with a two month overlap with the new Director to ensure a smooth transition. It also includes a retirement

of the Foreman and the hiring of a replacement employee. The budget was reviewed in detail by line item.

Personnel and Finance Committee motion by Dahlke, seconded by Wachowski, to support the Water budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Public Utilities Committee motion by Shimulunas, seconded by LeClair, to support the Water budget and recommend to Council for approval. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Adjournment

Personnel and Finance Committee motion by Dahlke, seconded by Wachowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Public Utilities Committee motion by Shimulunas, seconded by LeClair, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. Motion carried unanimously upon a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Jackson
City Clerk