

FINANCE COMMITTEE LEWISTON, MAINE

Minutes of April 26, 2010

PRESENT: Michael Marcotte, Councilor Ronald Jean, Councilor Larry Poulin and Stavros Mendros.

ABSENT: Mark Paradis

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chairman Mendros.

At this time, the Clerk advised the Committee that Mr. Paradis had called and would not be able to attend due to the fact that his doctor's appointment was running behind schedule.

At this time, the Committee reviewed the minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2010. Mr. Marcotte noted that on Vote 46-2010 that he had not made the motion. After a brief discussion, the Committee recalled the motion by Mr. Paradis and seconded by Mr. Mendros.

On motion of Mr. Marcotte, seconded by Mr. Jean it was

VOTED:

(47-2010) To approve the minutes as corrected of the previous meeting dated April 19, 2010 and to accept and place them on file as presented by the Clerk.

VOTE: 4-0

At this time, the Committee reviewed the recommendation with regard to Bid 2010-012 on the Kennedy Park Bath House. The Purchasing Agent explained that the City Council had taken up the issue of additional funding required at its April 26th Budget Workshop. By consensus, they had agreed to the additional funds to be allocated from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) account for improvements to City parks with a formal vote to be taken at its meeting of May 4, 2010.

The Purchasing Agent explained that the recommendation was being made contingent upon formal action by the Council on May 4, 2010 and that the purpose of the request for Finance Committee action would be helpful for an already compressed construction time line.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendros and seconded by Mr. Jean to move the project forward however, with two other members concerned about taking the action. Mr. Poulin moved to table the action until Council had taken its formal vote on May 4, 2010.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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On motion of Mr. Poulin, seconded by Mr. Jean it was

VOTED:

(48-2010) To table the action on the Kennedy Park Bath House until Council had voted.

VOTE: 4-0

At this time, the Committee began discussion with regard to its recommendation to the City Council on the Proposed FY 2011 Municipal Budget. Mr. Marcotte provided the Committee with a draft recommendation for consideration. After discussion by all members, Mr. Mendros suggested some additional language to provide additional guidance to the City Council.

On motion of Mr. Mendros, seconded by Mr. Marcotte, it was

VOTED:

(49-2010) To send the following recommendation to the City Council:

After careful review of the FY 2011 City Administrator proposed budget, and in light of our trying economic times, it is recommended that the City Council continue their budget deliberations and seriously consider all cost cutting measures, as well as organizational realignment opportunities that will hold the mil rate steady and reduce the proposed impact on the taxpayers of our community.

The City Council has a unique opportunity to send a clear message to businesses to come to Lewiston because unlike the rest of Maine, we will hold the line on taxes. The tough decisions made today will pay long term dividends when the economy turns around and employers are looking for places to expand.

In tough economic times, layoffs occur. The Council must understand a \$1.00 increase in the mil rate will cause approx. \$500,000 in new taxes to businesses in our community. These businesses are already struggling and, make no mistake a tax increase will cause people in this community to be laid off.

VOTE: 4-0

VOTED:

To adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

Norman Beuparlant
Clerk
Finance Committee