

Finance Committee

Mon, Nov 11, 2024 5:30PM • 9:22

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:01

Good evening, everyone. We'll call this meeting of the Finance Committee to order on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 5:30pm Let us rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

All 00:10

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under god indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:29

Roll Call of membership. Alders Hartzheim is excuse. Alder van Zeeland, may—we have not yet heard from solo, just kind of keep an eye open see if she shows up or was able to send us a message. Otherwise, all other members of the committee are present.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:48

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, 24-1456, finance committee meeting minutes for October, 21 and November 2.

Aldersperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 00:55

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 00:56

Second.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:58

All right, we have a motion and a second. Any comments? Questions? Seeing none, committee will vote all those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes three to zero.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:08

There are no public hearings or appearances tonight. So, we'll move to action items, starting with 24-1457, request to award purchase of sludge density meters to Allied Instrument in the amount of \$53,342 along with the following budget amendment.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:26

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:27

Thank you. So, Director—District Four, thank you. Director Stempa, if you have any remarks for us, please.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 01:36

If anybody has any questions, I can speak to the memo.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:38

All righty. Any questions? Alder Fenton.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:42

Yeah. Can I direct to Director Stempa? So, reading the material connected to this, am I understanding correctly that the we don't have these meters in operation right now?

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 02:00

Yeah, right now. They failed. So that cesium 137 which is a radioactive source, not a huge source, but that source does have—decays over time, and just the technology itself is pretty old. Like, seemingly, when I come to this committee, a lot of things that are in need of replacement—that was unexpected, though. Usually it's a slow decline and not a rapid failure. And unfortunately, we had both of them fail almost back-to-back. So, we can operate. It's not as efficient, it's not as easy. There's more babysitting involved, and obviously this memo is to restore that equipment.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 02:34

Okay, all right, thank you. I just wanted to make sure I was understanding correctly.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:39

Alder Croatt.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 02:40

Thanks. And since we're talking about this one, the memo caught my attention when it said "nuclear sources." But these were put in in the 90s. Is that correct?

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 02:49

Yes.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 02:49

And they failed around the same time?

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 02:51

Yeah.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 02:51

That is amazing.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 02:52

And were they beyond their normal useful life? Or is it about—you said they decline over time or...?

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 02:52

It is ama—it's—I don't know statistically. I've worked with a lot of these outside of the application, and that cesium source is a very common way to measure density, whether you're doing proctors or density tests for road construction, construction. It's a really accurate way to measure density and different materials. And so that's why it's used for this application as well. We have looked at non-radiation—non radioactive sources, but this technology is the most accurate and the most reliable.

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 03:31

Yeah, there's a there's a half-life. I don't off top my head. What the half-life of Cesium 137 is. It's like uranium, but it one would think you might get a little bit more useful life out of it. There's not a lot of moving parts to this

at all. It really is the radioactive source and whether signal's being transmitted from it. So, I can't speak to what exactly failed it in. It's just not working, and we looked at having repairs done, and it's just not worth it.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 03:54

Is the expectation that they'll last as long as the originals?

Director Chris Stempa (Utilities) 03:57

I think if we're putting a benchmark to as far as a depreciation on such things, we typically put about 20 to 25 years on this. So, it's right about where it would be anyway.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 04:09

Thanks, Chair.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:11

All right, seeing no other questions, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes three to zero.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:19

24-1458 request to award sole source purchase of four high service pump check valves to Dorner Company for a total of \$154,776 with a 2% contingency of \$3,096 for a total not to exceed \$157,872.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 04:38

Move to approve.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 04:39

Second.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:39

All right. We have our motion a second. Any comments or questions on this? All right, seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Extensions? That passes three to zero.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:55

24-1459 request to approve two-year extension of contract with Clifton Larson Allen LLP to provide annual audit services for the years ending—ended December, 31 2024 and 2025 for \$81,700 and \$82,500 respectively.

Alderman Chris Croatt (District 14) 05:11

Move to approve.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 05:11

Second.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:12

All right. We have a motion a second. Any comments, any questions? All right, I'm not seeing any, so we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes three to zero.

Alderperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:26

24-1460 request to approve change order number one to contract 42-24b for B-24 asphalt paving for additional sidewalk replacement in the amount of \$69,212.25 resulting in a decrease in contingency from \$50,000 to zero. Overall contract increases from \$1,407,816.40 to \$1,477,028.65.

Alderperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 05:56

Move to approve.

Alderperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 05:57

Second.

Alderperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:58

All right. Any comments, any questions on this? All right, see—ope, go ahead Alder Croatt.

Alderperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:05

I guess I do. It says asphalt paving and sidewalk. I always think of sidewalks in concrete. I know—I don't know if Deputy Director Neuberger can answer that or not.

Alderperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:19

I was close.

Deputy Director Pete Neuberger (Public Works) 06:21

So, the program is the asphalt reconstruct program. The sidewalk will be concrete sidewalk that is being replaced as part of the B-24 asphalt reconstruct program project.

Alderperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 06:32

Okay, thank you.

Alderperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:35

Anything else? All right, seeing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes three to zero.

Alderperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:44

That's all we have for action items tonight. So, we'll go to information items. I'd like to separate out here kind of have a little bit of opening for 24-1461, the update on ARPA funds. I don't know if anyone has questions, or Director Ohman, if you just kind of want to give us a little brief update on—oh, Alder Croatt, if you want to go ahead.

Alderperson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:09

If you want to go first, go ahead and maybe I'll answer my question.

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 07:15

So, we're coming up to December 31 and we need to have all of our funds obligated. We have—I'm just double checking real quick. It look—I believe we have everything obligated, with the exception of the COVID 19 Response, and I'm working with the mayor and some departments on possible uses for those.

Alderperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:39

Alder Croatt, did you have a...?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 07:41

Yeah, yeah, it wasn't regarding that. Just a clarification because we're close on our spent, obligated, amount to the budget amount in the very first column. That variance is made up of what? Because, I guess the question is, we're not giving any money back, right? Everything's obligated or spent.

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 08:03

We are coming up with the final plans for the last of the amounts in that COVID 19 response bucket to be obligated.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:12

Okay, so that 69 number can change?

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 08:15

Yeah.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:16

Okay. My second question is the line item for the library broadband—\$2 million is obligated. I know Director Gazza is not here to speak to any of that project and the costs associated with it, but I guess I'd like to understand if that project ends up being under that, what happens?

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 08:39

My understanding is that won't be. We won't be under that we will spend that full 2 million.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:48

Okay, I guess I didn't realize that it was going to be that expensive for broadband, but.

Director Jeri Ohman (Finance) 08:54

And the details of that, I'm—

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 08:56

Yeah, that's okay.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 08:59

All right. Any other questions? All right, thank you. And unless there's any other questions on the other information item, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:12

So, moved.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 09:13

second.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 09:13

All right, we have a motion a second. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes three to zero. We are adjourned. Good night.