

SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC HEARINGS

JANUARY 27, 2020

A Public Hearing was conducted by the Board of Aldermen on Monday, January 27, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Susan Lovering recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Susan Loving; Alderman Jan Schmidt led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with 11 members of the Board of Aldermen present; Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron, Alderman Laws and Alderman Cleaver were recorded absent.

Also in Attendance: John Griffin, CFO

President Wilshire

I did hear from Alderman Laws and Alderman Cleaver that they could not be with us this evening. So Vice Chair, Budget, I am going to turn the Public Hearing over to you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

R-20-004 - RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$350,000 OF FY2020 UNANTICIPATED REVENUE FROM DEPARTMENT #152 "FIRE", ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION #44 "CHARGES FOR SERVICES" INTO DEPARTMENT #152 "FIRE", ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION #51 "SALARIES & WAGES"

R-20-008 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,400,000) TO PURCHASE A NEW 2020 PIERCE ARROW XT RED AERIAL LADDER TRUCK FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Clemons

OK. Forgive me I am getting my computer out. Ok I will call to order the Public Hearing for R-20-004 relative to the supplemental appropriation of \$350,000.00 of FY2020 unanticipated revenue from Department Number 152 FIRE, Accounting Classification #44, "Charges for Services into Department #152 FIRE, Accounting Classification #151, Salaries & Wages".

We will take these one at a time. I am actually going to allow conversation on both of these at the same time. The other is R-20-008, Authoring the Mayor and City Treasurer to issue bonds not to exceed the amount of \$1,400,000.00 to purchase a new 2020 Pierce Arrow XT Red Aerial Ladder Truck for the Fire Department. Right now I will take testimony in favor. We need an explanation.

John Griffin, CFO

John Griffin, Chief Financial Officer for the City. This particular request resolution is to make things easier going forward. As you recall, when we had a spending cap we were concerned about increasing appropriations in various departments. The Fire Department had done an excellent job in securing \$350,000.00 in fees from our ambulance service. So last year when we prepared the budget, we weren't sure if that particular plaintiff request to overturn the local court's order on the spending cap was going to end the way it did, which there is no spending cap.

So we kind of conceptualized creating a revolving fund which is allowed by State Law to put revenues in for specific purpose; one of which is Fire Operations. As you recall in the Budget last year, we increased the number of dispatchers in the Fiscal 20 Budget. So we were going to match the \$350,000.00 with \$350,000.00 in dispatcher costs. As you recall from last year, those of you that were here, we put a \$350,000.00 negative number. I know Alderman Clemons remembers this, we put a \$350,000.00 negative number to reduce the budget simultaneously indicating that there would be a transfer to the revolving fund.

Senior Accounting Manager Evans and I were talking about this Resolution and what we should do, and we felt it was more transparent if we don't go forward with the revolving, keep the cost and the expenses of the dispatching operation in the Fire Department and simply ask that this become a revenue source in the Fire Department, the way the budget is set. So essentially we will have \$350,000.00 coming in with the other revenue that the Fire Department generated and there will be a simultaneous elimination of that minus \$350 that keeps the cost in the budget. And the good news about this is that there is no impact on taxes. So this is one of those supplemental appropriations that will not impact the taxes, either now or going forward. So with that, that's the explanation.

President Wilshire

I just wanted to mention that Alderman Dowd who is supposed to be chairing tonight is not feeling well and will not be joining us; as well as Alderman is sick. So I only mentioned two but there are actually four people that were under the weather this evening.

Chairman Clemons

Thank you. That was for 20-004 correct?

Mr. Griffin

That's right.

Chairman Clemons

Do you just want to give a brief explanation for 20-008?

Mr. Griffin

It's the Fire Department and perhaps Mr. Fredette will be ready to provide that testimony in favor.

Alderman Jette

While he's talking about the \$350,000.00 could I be permitted to ask a question?

Chairman Clemons

Sure.

Alderman Jette

At the risk of stating the obvious it sounds to me like we are getting \$350,000.00 from AMR in order to help pay for the cost of the dispatchers who also provide dispatching services to AMR. This is just accounting for that \$350,000.00 and it's not talking about any increase in any new money for the City. This \$350,000.00 is coming from AMR? Is that correct?

Mr. Griffin

John Griffin, CFO that is correct. Whoever comes up with the Fire Department may be able to add a little bit more, but it's, I believe, a 10-year agreement with AMR where the \$350,000.00 is for the initial year. It increases each year thereafter so what this will do is have a place for the revenue to come in, whatever the amount is and maintain with the Fire Department Budget for transparency purposes, the cost associated with the dispatching operation. It is not meant to be a one-for-one, it's not meant to cover the entire cost of dispatching, but it was a very good effort on the part of the Fire Department to negotiate with AMR through a bidding process to come up with this particular funding stream.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman Clemons

OK any other questions? At this point I am going to testimony in favor of, and I'm going to do them both. So if you have testimony in favor of either R-20-004 or R-20-008, please come forward, state your name for the record.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The public hearings were declared closed at 7:12 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Committee Clerk