

**City of Belleville
Finance Committee Meeting
February 13, 2023
City Hall 101 South Illinois Street**

In Attendance:

(A) Finance Committee Members

**Bryan Whitaker, Alderman
Carmen Duco, Alderman
Scott Ferguson, Alderman
Raffi Ovian, Alderman
Shelly Schaefer, Alderman
Chris Rothweiler, Alderman
Phil Elmore, Alderman**

(B) Guests

Michael Hagberg

(C) Staff

**Jamie Maitret, Finance Director
Sarah Biermann, Treasurer
Mayor Patty Gregory
Dean Hardt, Purchasing**

Chairman Whitaker called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Alderman Sullivan was excused. All other committee members were present. Chairman Whitaker introduced guests. Emergency evacuation procedures were announced.

Chairman Whitaker opened public participation. There was no public participation. Public participation was closed.

Chairman Whitaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2023 meeting.

Motion

Alderman Schaefer made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9, 2023. Alderman Rothweiler seconded. All attending members voted yes. The motion passed.

Johnson Controls Contract Amendment for Campus

Dean Hardt explained that during the backflow prevention testing that was done last month, they came across two more that were not originally included in the contract. This would be to add them on to the existing contract. Discussion followed.

Motion

Alderman Schaefer made a motion to approve amendment to Johnson Controls contract for SIJWDC, adding \$300 annually for five (5) years totaling \$1,500 for the addition of two (2)

backflow preventors not originally included. Alderman Elmore seconded. Roll call vote was taken. Alderman Duco, Ferguson, Ovian, Schaefer, Rothweiler, Elmore and Whitaker all voted yes. The motion passed.

Transformer for Campus

Dean Hardt explained that this is needed as a result of the flooding event that occurred in July 2022 that destroyed a transformer at the Campus that was in the basement of one of the buildings that flooded. The only company that quoted for this that can get the transformer and install immediately is Pyramid Electrical Contractors. Part of this cost will be covered by the City's insurance. This will now be installed outside as opposed to indoors in the basement. Discussion followed.

Motion

Alderman Schaefer made a motion to approve waiving formal bidding procedures and enter into an agreement with Pyramid Electrical Contractors, Inc. for purchase/installation of 300kVa transformer at SIJWDC in the amount of \$116,790, lowest proposal among three vendors for immediate install. Alderman Ferguson seconded. Roll call vote was taken. Alderman Duco, Ferguson, Ovian, Schaefer, Rothweiler, Elmore and Whitaker all voted yes. The motion passed.

Agreement with Voltus, Inc. for Energy Curtailment Program

Jamie Maitret explained this standby program in case energy curtailment is needed from a vendor of our size. The City would receive approximately \$33,000 per megawatt per year of energy, just for being on standby, plus a fee for any energy curtailed if needed. Most of these are for locations that have generators that could operate if needed. Discussion followed.

Motion

Alderman Ferguson made a motion to approve agreement with Voltus, Inc. for energy curtailment program at various City-owned locations (mainly WWTP). Alderman Elmore seconded. Roll call vote was taken. Alderman Duco, Ferguson, Ovian, Schaefer, Rothweiler, Elmore and Whitaker all voted yes. The motion passed.

30 Year Electric Utility Franchise Agreement with Ameren Illinois

Jamie Maitret explained that our current electric utility franchise agreement expired in October 2022. Our representative from Good Energy that helps deal with our electric aggregation program was able to help us negotiate a new 30 year franchise agreement. Under the old terms, the City received 50% off of our street lighting bills. Ameren does not offer that anymore. Instead, they will pay the City an amount monthly to help offset those costs. The annual amount of payments will be \$370,200 for 30 years. They will also reimburse us back to October 2022 when the last agreement expired, but we will continue to receive the street lighting discount for one more month. Discussion followed.

Motion

Alderman Ferguson made a motion to approve 30 year electric utility franchise agreement with Ameren Illinois. Alderman Duco seconded. Roll call vote was taken. Alderman Duco, Ferguson, Ovian, Schaefer, Rothweiler, Elmore and Whitaker all voted yes. The motion passed.

Discussion on Status of GO Refunding Bonds Series 2012

Jamie Maitret discussed that in 2006 a bond issue was done to help pay for the downtown streetscape, and a 0.25% home rule sales tax was issued to make those bond payments. Sales tax has improved over the last several years, and the revenue is greatly exceeding the annual debt payments. Currently we are projecting that by July 2023, there will be enough cash in the fund to payoff the last few years of debt payments on the bonds. She discussed that the Finance Committee needs to decide what to do with the home rule sales tax funds after the debt is paid off. Obviously, the Council could decide to vote to end the 0.25% home rule sales tax, in which case we would need to pass an ordinance by April 1st for it to go away on July 1st, or by October 1st for it to go away by January 1st. Other options could be using those funds to help pay down police and fire pension obligation debt, or using the funds to offset tax levy amounts for pension contributions, thus helping reduce property taxes for residents. Another option discussed was using those funds each year for infrastructure work needed in the City. She explained that while no decision is needed tonight, if the committee wants to propose ending the 0.25% home rule sales tax, she would recommend passing that ordinance at the next meeting so that it could be filed with Illinois Department of Revenue by April 1st, ending the tax on July 1, 2023. If the committee does not want the revenue to end, they can decide at a later date this year how to use the funds. Discussion followed.

Motion

No motion at this time.

Revenue Sources

Motion to receive and file.

Motion

Alderman Elmore made a motion to receive and file the revenue sources. Alderman Rothweiler seconded. All attending members voted yes. The motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn

Alderman Schaefer made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 pm. Alderman Ferguson seconded. All attending members voted yes. The motion passed.