

Minutes
Finance and Policy Committee
October 7, 2019
6:00 p.m.
2nd committee meeting

Members present were Chairwoman Carol King, Committee members Dale Black and Terry Merritt. Holly Abercrombie, Finance Director, Mark Putnam, HR Director, and Brandon Madden, City Administrator were also present.

1. Call to Order- Chairwoman King

2. Public Comment- None

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Finance Committee Meeting: August 8, 2019

Councilman Merritt made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

a. Budget Review- Budgets look normal.

b. Department Reports- Information only

Council workshop on the audit- An audit draft should be available by the end of October. Holly asked committee to look at available dates for a workshop around the last week of October.

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

a. Workplace Privacy Computer and Internet Policy- This will address internet and computer privacy issues. There is no expectation of privacy with city owned equipment. Councilman Merritt asked Mark about partial reimbursement for use of an employee's personal phone. Where is the line drawn? What is private use? Mark said if there is a reimbursement, and we have two kinds- one for text and one for data, but if there is a lawsuit and you use your own phone, anything that is used for the city is discoverable. If Mark has a city phone with personal email, the personal email is discoverable as well. Councilman Merritt asked if a city employee sends another employee an email with an attachment that is then saved to a personal phone, then that attachment is discoverable through FOIA? Mark answered yes.

Chairwoman King asked if you have a personal phone with no reimbursement and you are using it for city business, is that discoverable if it is related to city business? Mark said he thinks so.

Councilman Merritt made a motion to forward this policy to full council with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

- b. Dedicated Council Voicemail- This comes from a request by Councilman Matney. Some residents would like to leave messages on a City voicemail versus a council person's personal voice mail. Chairwoman King said council members have a choice to have a city phone or not. Some choose to use their personal phone. Councilman Black said his opinion is that the messages are more readily available on his cell phone rather than having to call in to a City service to receive voice mails. Councilman Merritt said he doesn't see a reason to go back to the early nineties and have a voice mailbox at city hall when he can receive the messages on his cell phone.

Chairwoman King said some people have a city phone and some people choose to use their personal phone. Councilman Black said voicemail at the City would be an additional charge, but it is included in the phone that he has. Chairwoman King said, for clarification, council members who use their personal phones to conduct city business do not get reimbursed by the City. Mark said that was correct. Councilman Merritt asked why that was not available to elected officials. Chairwoman King said that is a choice and she is a public official. Mark answered that no council person who is using their personal phone has asked for reimbursement, but does not see why we wouldn't reimburse if asked. The issue has never been addressed.

No action was taken on this item.

- c. Mavs Hoops Club Request- This is a request from the Mavs Hoops Club. They are seeking sponsorship for the basketball program in the form of a digital display board. Staff has reviewed the request. Should Council want to proceed, hospitality and accommodations tax could be a funding source. Coach Flood was present to talk to committee. Greenville County School funding is limited and cannot fund a new scoreboard. Two days a week, 500 people come into Mauldin to watch games and spend money. The City would be able to advertise events and build a partnership between the high school and our recreation programs.

Councilman Black asked about the two different sizes. Coach Flood said the score table has tvs and only caters to one side of the gym. The visitor's side would not see the announcements. If there was a digital display on the gym wall, everyone would be able to see it. The Hoops Club President was also present. She mentioned that if council or staff ever wants to come address the crowd during a school event, they could be put on live feed to do so. Councilman Merritt asked in a perfect world, would they want both the score table and the wall mounted display. Coach Flood and President Sheila both answered yes. It would be a combined cost of \$19,000-25,000, depending on the table model ordered. Councilman Black asked who would be responsible for updating the information on the board. There is a media teacher at the school who would be responsible for input.

Chairwoman King said she loved the idea of a partnership with the high school. She is concerned the Booster Club had asked for a sponsorship a month ago, but the request came too late for publication in the programs. She said we could set aside some money if we would like to in the future for different school fundraisers, but she doesn't know if she can commit to this one purchase when there are other needs.

Councilman Merritt said there were two concerns with the Touchdown Club last month- one was the timing, the other was the legality of doing this with taxpayer's money. There are four schools in the City, so can public funds be used for one school when another school might not be able to afford supplies for students. Brandon said he had checked with legal counsel. This is a non-profit organization, so it is different from the school district. It would be designated as a donation to a non-profit. The hospitality and accommodations tax law is somewhat vague, which gives some flexibility. Councilman Merritt asked if the Hoops Club was different from the Touchdown Club as far as non-profit. Coach Flood said the Touchdown Club is strictly for football. The Hoops Club is a separate non-profit.

Jim Gresham from the MHS basketball team was present and spoke to committee. He said he would like to see a partnership between the City and the school.

Brandon is going to get some more information from the attorney and come back to committee. Councilman Black said the City has been told in the past that we cannot legally give money. In-kind services can be donated, but not money. Sheila also addressed the issue of the other schools in the area. Mauldin High School supports the middle and elementary schools in the community as well. This would help bring the community together and bring us up to the 20th century. Councilman Merritt said he is in favor of the request, he just wants to make sure we are ok legally. Councilman Black said he doesn't have a problem with the request either.

This item will be brought back up after legal counsel is consulted.

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjourn- Chairwoman King adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk