

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2024, 6PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5 E. BUTLER ROAD
5th committee meeting

Committee Members present: Michael Reynolds (Chair), Members Carol King and Taft Matney
Others present: Finance Director Holly Abercrombie, HR Director Mark Putnam and City Administrator Seth Duncan

1. Call to Order- Chairman Reynolds

2. Public Comment- None

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. Finance Committee Minutes-July 1, 2024

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilwoman King seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers

a. City Administrator Seth Duncan

Mr. Duncan reported SCDOT has paid the City for the easements associated with Building a Better Butler in the amount of \$240,605.

The storm drain cap on East Butler that has disintegrated should be fixed within a few weeks.

b. Finance Director Holly Abercrombie
Budget Review

Ms. Abercrombie advised the committee the year end numbers should be sent soon.

c. HR Director Mark Putnam

Mr. Putnam told committee that the MASC SCMIT/SCMIRF audit was done last week and we did very well.

He then reported the insurance renewal is complete for 2025. The City will see a 4.3% increase, but it has nothing to do with claims. Our claims experience has been great. The increase is inflation based. Because there was a 7% increase already budgeted, the City will be able to absorb the increase with no impact on employees.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Resolution 06-2024- Employee Policy Manual

Motion: Councilwoman King made a motion to send this resolution to Council with Councilman Matney seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

6. New Business

a. Ordinance 1043- Franchise Agreement with Ripple Fiber

Ripple Fiber is interested in bringing their high-speed internet to residents in Mauldin. Their first area of interest is the Carriage Run neighborhood off Holland Road. The subdivision does have an HOA and Ripple would need their permission prior to installation as the roads in the neighborhood are all private. Though no public ROW will be accessed, Ripple still needs an agreement approved by City Council in order to operate in the City.

At this time, this is the only location Ripple Fiber is interested in, but could be interested in the City's growth corridors. The company has told staff that their primary business focus is in areas that are not built out with 2 or 3 providers, but rather underserved areas and areas without competition. This area of the City is only served by a single provider

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to send this item to Council with Councilwoman King seconding.

Councilman Matney said he is generally in favor of an agreement like this, but the company would not be bound by their current intentions of only going into one neighborhood. He is concerned that other parties are looking at the City and wonders how many times the residents will have ROWs in front of their houses dug up for high-speed internet.

Councilman Matney asked if there was a way to take this agreement and limit it to the area they asked for initially. City Administrator Duncan said we could, but the company probably wouldn't agree to it. Councilman Matney asked if we could tighten up the language saying yards would be left in the same condition as they were in when the company first started the work. City Administrator Duncan said that provision could be written into our ordinance rather than in each agreement separately.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

b. Resolution 07-2024- Lease Purchase Agreement

In June, Council approved a FY2024-2025 Budget that included provisions for purchasing various equipment and vehicles for City Departments. The total purchase price was not to exceed \$1,414,000 for the following items:

6 Police Patrol Cars
Sanitation Grapple Truck
Side-Loader Trash Truck
2 Pick-up Trucks
Sewer Camera Van
Sewer mini Excavator

Staff issued an RFP in July with a due date of Thursday, August 1st. First Citizens Bank was the bidder with the lowest interest rate and is the recommendation of staff.

Motion: Councilwoman King made a motion to send this resolution to Council with Councilman Matney seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

c. Resolution 08-2024- Reappoint Board of Directors to Mauldin Public Facilities Corporation

The Mauldin Public Facilities Corporation was created by the City in order to facilitate the issuance of Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds (IPRB) back in 2020. The MPFC operates with a board of directors that are appointed by Council and meet annually to elect officers. The board currently operates with three members, where these three individuals are neither City employees nor City elected officials. Each board member, or director, serves for three years.

City Council previously appointed the following individuals to serve as the Board of Directors for the MPFC:

Dianna Gracely
Rodney Neely
Cristina Ortiz

Staff has confirmed with each that they wish to continue serving in their capacity as board members for the MPFC.

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to send this resolution to Council with Councilwoman King seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

d. Approval of Financial Advisory Services Agreement

In June, staff issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit responses from qualified independent registered municipal financial advisory firms to serve as the City's financial advisor. The City received three responses. Upon reviewing each of the respondent's RFQ response, staff interviewed two respondents.

Staff recommends Council approve First Tryon Advisors as the City's Financial Advisor and authorize the City Administrator to take all action necessary to retain and engage their services.

Motion: Councilwoman King made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation of approval of First Tryon Advisors as our financial advisor. Councilman Matney seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns- None

9. Adjournment- Chairman Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk