

**Minutes  
Finance Committee  
June 1, 2015  
6:00 PM  
4th Committee meeting**

**Members present were Chairman Dale Black, Committee members Terry Merritt and Larry Goodson. Finance Director Holly Abercrombie and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.**

1. Call to order.- Chairman Dale Black
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and approval of minutes- Councilman Goodson made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous(3-0).
4. Reports or communications from city officers
  - a. Budget report- Holly said the budgets still look good. Chairman Black asked what property tax reimbursement was. Holly said the majority of that is Homestead Exemptions, some is Merchant's inventory. Chairman Black asked about a franchise check received after the budget process. Holly said yes. Chairman Black asked about council other expenses. We have spent \$19,700 and the line item is 108% over. It just says special projects.

Councilman Goodson said the flowers for Memorial Day will be about \$500. Trey said there is a beautification line and that is where it can be budgeted. It could also go under special events. Councilman Merritt asked if the flags can be under beautification instead of being paid for out of Recreation. This item is for further thought.

5. Unfinished business.
  - a. Dress policy- Chairman Black would still like to give everyone the same amount to make it equitable. They can buy logo clothing with that money. Councilman Merritt said there are times when you hire supervisory employees that you give perks to that you don't give to other people. Councilman Merritt said the easiest thing to do is to merge it in to salary for those who get the allowance already. Take the taxes out and then after this, it will go away. This will then be revenue neutral.

Councilman Goodson said originally it wasn't a salary increase, and now it will be a one time salary increase. Councilman Merritt said it would be in the salary and if you get a merit raise, it will be based on salary with the clothing allowance amount added in. Chairman Black said you are still not being equal. He also pointed out the personnel policy says all salary adjustments are merit driven. Chairman Black said he wasn't sure of the legalities of giving someone salary and telling them what they have to do with it. Councilman Merritt said he doesn't want to take something away from someone if they have done nothing wrong.

Councilman Goodson said we could set up an account at Signatures or somewhere else and monitor how the money is spent. Everyone could get some logo clothing. Councilman Merritt said logo clothing worked well at the Sports Center. Councilman Goodson said the shirt was given to them, but the khaki pants have to be bought.

Councilman Merritt said his motion is to roll the amounts for those who get clothing allowance currently into their salaries where it is revenue neutral and then get rid of the line item.

Councilman Goodson said it is a budgeted amount. He doesn't understand revenue neutral. Councilman Merritt said if it is rolled into the salary, if they get a merit raise, it is added to it and it is not a significant amount.

Councilman Goodson seconded the motion. This item was sent to council with a 2-1 vote with Chairman Black dissenting.

- b. Alcohol policy- Councilman Merritt asked this item be put on the agenda. He would like to get the issues out there. Other communities that allow alcohol at events have done something similar to this policy. The people he has talked to say that this is the wave of the future. He does not want to legislate morality. Councilman Merritt would like council to lay out their concerns to the department heads and get those concerns addressed. The Sippin' in

Simpsonville event allowed people to sip wine at a specific station, not walk around with it.

Councilman Merritt did not agree with the Sports Center boundary for alcohol. He thinks the natural boundary follows the curve. If a beer truck faces the curbing and you can go around still on cultural center grounds, that would be ok. Councilman Goodson said there needs to be an identifiable place for first responders and police where people can go for help. Councilman Goodson said he went to the fair in Simpsonville and they allowed alcohol. There was a police presence that was constant, not intimidating, but assuring that it was a safe event. Councilman Goodson also said we need a plan in case there is a bad storm to keep everyone safe. Councilman Merritt said we need to do this for special events, not as part of the alcohol policy.

Councilman Goodson he is now in support of not having Council go through and approve each request if it meets every criteria. The Boy Scout request changed his mind on this issue. Councilman Merritt said he stands before the voters and if there is something he feels that is wrong, he is the voice of the voters.

Chairman Black said he would consider a fenced in area where the alcohol is confined. That way they are not mingling with other people, only other people that are also drinking. Also, they could smoke in the area as well.

Councilman Merritt asked if you barricaded it at the curb, you could walk in that area, but there is limited access. If you go over the barricade, you would be told no alcohol. Chairman Black said once it is here, someone is going to want it at Springfield, then it will be at all the parks. He says it is opening a can of worms.

This item will be left in committee until more information is received.

6. New business.

7. Public Comment

Leo Joyce: As far as the Memorial Day flowers, I thank you.

Chairman Black said he would like to buy live flowers that may be planted after the ceremony. It shouldn't cost any more money.

Dean Kirkland: I want to make a comment. What, never mind. I don't want you to think I am stupid. People are thanking me for standing up against this alcohol. How many times does it have to be voted down for you to walk away from it? RC told me in his 8 years, no minister has stood up and talked against it. Rush Limbaugh said follow the money trail and you would find out what is going on.

Do you know what the bible says about alcohol and medicinal purposes? I am a minister of God, Sunday school teacher, Deacon, and God has forgiven me. You either get closer to him or further away. You make him mad. If you make him mad, you have a problem.

Chairman Black asked when we would start advertising for the vacancies that would start occurring when the TERI employees retire. They said that would happen early fall probably. They are not leaving until November-December of this year. They said we will make sure we are ahead of the game.

Councilman Merritt asked when the credit cards statements would be available.

8. Committee concerns.- None
9. Adjournment. – Chairman Black adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk

**NOTICE:** A majority or quorum of City Council may attend a committee meeting