

**Minutes
Finance and Policy Committee
February 3, 2009
6th meeting**

Members present were Chairman Dale Black and Council members Michael Reynolds and Gabe Hunter. Trey Eubanks, City Administrator was also present.

1. Call to order.- Chairman Black
2. Reading and approval of minutes.

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

3. Reports or communications from city officers.
 - a. City Administrator
 - b. Finance Director- update on search

Trey Eubanks: We feel like we need to continue to work to find the right match of skills and experience and while we did have some good candidates the last time we advertised, we are going to advertise again and I will be counting on those who helped last time to help again.

Our fire chief is excited about helping out with the budget this year along with our Senior Accountant, Holly Abercrombie. Those two will play a key role along with our department heads. We are on pace with the schedule and will be getting started in earnest in the next couple of weeks.

Overall with our finances, I gave you a comprehensive report in the council meeting and you can even see from the council to the committee meeting where we are starting to get revenues in. It is too early to make a prediction, but we are keeping a close eye on business licenses and permits. Departmental budgets continue to stay at a good level and I am proud of what we are doing. If we don't have to have it, we are not buying it.

Chairman Black: I talked with Mr. Eubanks last week. I saw an article about one of our businesses possibly going in to chapter 11 or chapter 7 and I asked him what effect that would have on our franchise fees. I want to stay on top of that and all the franchises we receive revenue from. I appreciate you and Holly getting the information to me on that.

Councilman Hunter: We also have a franchise agreement with that company. We will have to replace that and renegotiate. You don't have to comment on that now.

Chairman Black: Some of this is handled on the state level. Not all but I think one was AT&T and the state legislature passed something on franchises last year.

Trey Eubanks: Any franchise from 2006 forward which includes ours with Charter Communications is now under the state level. They will receive franchise fees and submit those to local governments. I will continue as Mr. Black mentioned to monitor the franchise revenues. Some fourth quarters did not get posted, but we are on pace and should start seeing those revenues come in. We will keep a close eye on that.

Chairman Black: I know you are tired of hearing about it, but I am watching the news.

Councilman Reynolds: Please send Holly our appreciation on how hard she is working. She has picked up the pace since the vacancy and I have been very impressed with her.

Chairman Black: I always try to tell Sandra, Margaret, Holly and Cindy what a good job they are doing. Without the information they get to us, our jobs as council would be a lot tougher.

4. Unfinished business-
 - a. Review of Budget
5. New business

Trey Eubanks: One item to mention, late last week I received the keys to an operation in a warehouse on Jenkins Street. We have another interested party in that space and we are talking with him right now. We are drafting some lease terms now so hopefully we won't be without a tenant for long. We will probably run this by council in February. In the event this doesn't work out, I am going to ask a local man to help us market that facility. Hopefully, we will get this tenant for the building.

6. Public comment.
7. Committee concerns.

Chairman Black: One of our colleagues mentioned something to me, when we have the department head up at the podium at the council meeting giving the monthly report, we could go ahead and do all the business pertaining to their department- the old business and new business and get that department out of the way. He wanted to throw that out and see what committee thought about that. I will open that up for comments.

Councilman Hunter: I talked to that colleague and I don't know of any issue other than a logistical issue. It is hard to keep those things separate. I want to ask Mr. Eubanks to consider that and come back to us with a recommendation.

Chairman Black: I don't have a problem either way but we can get everything handled and out of the way. Mr. Eubanks, will you come back with a recommendation on whether you think this will speed up the meetings. My idea is we can still get the public comment before we meet. It would free up the department heads to leave if they would like to.

Trey Eubanks: We will have second reading on the standing committee rules also at that February meeting.

Councilman Hunter: I have no objection in having public comments on the committee meetings twice.

8. 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.