

FINANCE/PURCHASING & BUILDING COMMITTEE
November 29, 2022

A meeting of the Finance/Purchasing & Building Committee was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairperson Bacon in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Roll call: Alderpersons Bacon, Wiederanders and Williams were present. Also present: City Administrator VanLieshout, City Treasurer/Finance Director Clarizio, Community Development Director Olejniczak, and Office Accounting Assistant II Metzger.

A motion was made by Alderperson Williams, seconded by Alderperson Wiederanders to adopt the following agenda moving item 6 to 4:

1. Roll call.
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Public comment on agenda items.
4. Consideration of: Deferred Special Assessments.
5. Consideration of: Request to Lease Property at Tacoma Beach Rd.
6. Discussion of: Sober Living Facility
7. Review bills
8. Adjourn.

Carried.

The following spoke during public comment on agenda items and other issues related to finance & purchasing: Chris Kellems, 120 Alabama Street; Dan Powers 345 W Redwood Place.

Discussion of: Sober Living Facility:

City Administrator Van Lieshout commented the City has made progress towards addressing housing issues as has the County but not all housing needs have been covered. Alder. Wiederanders approached the City with the concept for sober living housing. Alder. Wiederanders added that a 3year study conducted by the League of Women Voters on mental health and substance abuse found sober living housing in the city was the top request.

Door County Health and Human Services Director Joe Krebsbach stated the County is struggling with more addiction and has had a significant rise in services especially in foster care with drug related families. We have a problem with what we have for services for individuals with AODA related issues. A lot of the addiction cases are outsourced for treatment to Appleton, Green Bay or other areas but they after treatment they struggle when they come back because they don't have a place to live. He stated for several years the County has been looking for options to remedy the need but the housing market has been challenging the last couple years. We are looking for housing in the city due to proximity to our services, however after looking at 20 buildings, placing offers on 2 we have been unable to secure housing. The preference is a facility to house both men and women but not together ideally a duplex for 8-16 people. The County Board has designated ARPA funds for the housing.

County Administrator Ken Papich explained that they have been reviewing existing home options in the City and working with City Staff but the housing market and federal requirements on the ARPA funds are challenging. At this point we are starting to consider new construction which could offer some potential options for partnering with the City.

Mr. Krebsbach and Mr. Papich answered several questions from the Committee relating to future use of the building, current placement of individuals, addiction and mental health trends and funding sources.

Mr. Kresbach noted that we do have a grant but it can only be used for furniture and programming. We are continuing to research funding but funding is not for the facility itself. He stated the needs are growing, we are seeing an increase in mental health challenges, and homelessness due to mental health in addition to less treatment facilities. The struggle becomes after the 28 days are completed the lack of options for where they go. Sober living housing environment would assist the resident until they are stabilized in sobriety.

Moved by Alderperson Williams, seconded by Alderperson Wiederanders to direct Staff to move forward with planning and assistance options. Carried.

Consideration of: Deferred Special Assessments:

City Treasurer/Finance Director Clarizio stated that existing deferred special assessments are reviewed every 5 years by the Committee. Annually she reviews the circumstances around the properties and confirms the status with the Sturgeon Bay Utilities. At the last 5 year review the deferments were continued.

Moved by Alderperson Williams, seconded by Alderperson Wiederanders to recommend to the Common Council to approve the continuation of the special assessment deferments. Carried.

Consideration of: Request to Lease Property at Tacoma Beach Road.

City Administrator Van Lieshout stated since the last Finance meeting he spoke with the City Attorney as directed for clarification. The lease is an option providing that the public is still able to enjoy the benefits of the property. The lease would grant Mr. and Mrs. Wright with the right to construct and make appropriate improvements, and require they obtain the necessary permits. One of the conditions would require that they allow the public to have access to the property. The Wrights appear agreeable to doing so. He stated the costs associated with drafting the lease, per city policy, would be imposed on the requestor.

After a brief discussion the consensus of the Committee was to deny the request.

Moved by Alderperson Wiederanders, seconded by Alderperson Williams to deny the request to lease property on Tacoma Beach Road. Carried.

Review bills

Moved by Alderperson Wiederanders, seconded by Alderperson Williams to approve the bills as presented and forward to the Common Council for payment. Carried.

Moved by Alderperson Williams, seconded by Alderperson Wiederanders to adjourn. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Metzger