

**Finance & Personnel Committee  
of the City of Onalaska**

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

1

1 The Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Committee of the City of Onalaska was called to order  
2 at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. It was noted that the meeting had been announced  
3 and a notice posted at City Hall.

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5 Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Kim Smith, Ald.  
6 Jerry Every

7  
8 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, Mayor Joe Chilsen, Financial Services  
9 Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler, Human Resource Director Hope Burchell, Police Chief Troy  
10 Miller, Fire Chief Billy Hayes, Ald. Diane Wulf, Ald. Jim Binash

11

12 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

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14 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting  
15 as printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

16

17 On voice vote, motion carried.

18

19 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

20

21 Ald. Smith called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion  
22 of the meeting.

23

24 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

25

26 **FINANCE**

27

28 **Item 4 – Omni Center financials for 2018**

29

30 Fred reported that revenues totaled \$499,760.86, and expenses totaled \$547,401.37 for a deficit  
31 of \$47,640.51.

32

33 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the Omni Center financials for 2018  
34 and place them on file.

35

36 On voice vote, motion carried.

37

38 **Item 5 – General Fund Financials 2018**

39

40 Fred directed committee members’ attention to Revenue Account No. 100-00000-48406  
41 (“Insurance Dividends”) and noted the City of Onalaska’s Experience Modification is 0.63  
42 percent. Fred also noted that in mid-December the city had received a dividend check of  
43 \$76,555. Of that total, \$52,823 is routed to the General Fund. Fred said, “This was something

Reviewed 1/3/19 by Fred Buehler & Hope Burchell

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44 that was never anticipated. ... I think it's well-noted for the departments to be commended for  
45 the good Experience Modification that we currently have."

46

47 City Administrator Rindfleisch said he has never seen an Experience Modification as low as 0.63  
48 in the other municipalities for which he has been employed and described it as "remarkable."

49 City Administrator Rindfleisch also said it is based on the leadership within the organization as  
50 well as the city's employees, who follow safe practices to avoid injury.

51

52 Fred directed committee members' attention to Revenue Account No. 100-00000-45110 ("Court  
53 Penalties") and said the city had received \$137,685 in 2018 through the State Debt Collection.

54 The city received \$130,651 in 2017 through the State Debt Collection. Fred noted \$90,000 had  
55 been budgeted for Court Penalties and said \$110,309.45 had been collected.

56

57 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to accept the General Fund Financials for 2018 and  
58 place them on file.

59

60 On voice vote, motion carried.

61

62 **Item 6 – Authorization to accept a Cooperative Educational Service Agency #4 law**  
63 **enforcement grant regarding alcohol compliance (non-matching grant) in the amount of**  
64 **\$1,320**

65

66 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to approve authorization to accept a Cooperative  
67 Educational Service Agency #4 law enforcement grant regarding alcohol compliance (non-  
68 matching grant) in the amount of \$1,320.

69

70 Police Chief Miller told committee members this is a program in which the Police Department  
71 has participated in the past. Police Chief Miller said the Police Department seeks individuals  
72 who are under 21 years of age to attempt to purchase alcohol under police supervision. Police  
73 Chief Miller said the Police Department "take[s] appropriate action from there. It has been very  
74 successful. Unfortunately, last year we ran into a little problem recruiting someone to do it who  
75 looked old enough and was willing to do this for us, so we did not participate in this grant last  
76 year. But thankfully they are offering it to us again this year. We have had quite a bit of success  
77 in the past. How we measure success is the unsuccessful buys, because that means the retailers  
78 are doing what they should be doing. We are really finding in the City of Onalaska our retailers  
79 are doing a very diligent job of checking identification on people and making sure they're not  
80 being presented with a fake ID. Our success is measured by not writing citations in this type of a  
81 grant. It is a great way for us to be out there and double-checking, and being able to be  
82 reimbursed for our overtime is a benefit to it."

83

84 Ald. Smith asked Police Chief Miller if the Police Department checks on the city's retailers when  
85 it does not receive this grant.

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86  
87 Police Chief Miller told Ald. Smith the Police Department usually does not due to budgetary  
88 constraints and manpower. Police Chief Miller said the Police Department would investigate a  
89 retailer on its own if there are suspicions or complaints regarding selling alcohol to minors.

90  
91 Ald. Every said it is his understanding La Crosse County performs inspections on a scheduled  
92 basis.

93  
94 Police Chief Miller told Ald. Every it is his understanding La Crosse County also participates in  
95 grants similar to this one.

96  
97 On voice vote, motion carried.

98  
99 **Item 7 – Information regarding the Wisconsin State Debt Collection Tax Intercept**  
100 **Program**

101  
102 Fred reiterated the city had received \$137,685 in 2018, compared to \$130,651 in 2017.

103  
104 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to accept the information regarding the Wisconsin  
105 State Debt Collection Tax Intercept Program and place it on file.

106  
107 On voice vote, motion carried.

108  
109 **PERSONNEL**

110  
111 **Item 8 – Review and consideration of renewal of the Gundersen Health System**  
112 **Occupational Health Service Agreement for 2019**

113  
114 Hope noted there had been “very minor changes” in the prices for 2019. Hope said that while  
115 she typically sees some price increases, Gundersen has been keeping prices “fairly low, with  
116 minimal increases just to compete with Mayo Health System.” Hope told committee members a  
117 Mayo Health System representative had submitted quotes and said some prices were higher than  
118 Gundersen Health System, some were lower, and some were the same. Hope said, “For the  
119 amount of time and effort it would take to switch, it really wasn’t worth doing that. I felt the  
120 rates that we have – the contract language is the same – that this contract should be approved.”

121  
122 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the renewal of the Gundersen Health  
123 System Occupational Health Service Agreement for 2019.

124  
125 On voice vote, motion carried.

126  
127 **Item 9 – Review and consideration of renewal of the Gundersen Health System Industrial**  
128 **Safety Eyewear Agreement for 2019**

Reviewed 1/3/19 by Fred Buehler & Hope Burchell

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129  
130 Hope said this contract allows city employees to obtain prescription eyewear at reduced prices,  
131 noting there is no cost to the city to participate. Hope also noted city employees are given  
132 coupons that they may utilize for discounted eyewear. Hope said that while city employees must  
133 pay the entire portion, “it’s a benefit that they can get for a discount.”

134  
135 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to approve renewal of the Gundersen Health  
136 System Industrial Safety Eyewear Agreement for 2019.

137  
138 Hope noted the \$75 is a coupon against the eyewear and said the cost typically exceeds that  
139 amount. Hope said, “I think if you’re looking at somebody who’s wearing prescription glasses,  
140 they’re probably going to be spending a significant amount of money on eyewear. It probably  
141 would be cheaper to get it through the industrial strength safety glasses than it would be to get it  
142 and have actual frames. It’s a benefit for employees to be able to utilize it and get a discount.”

143  
144 On voice vote, motion carried.

145  
146 **Item 10 – Review and consideration of renewal of the Gundersen Health System Lutheran**  
147 **Hospital Agreement for 2019**

148  
149 Hope told committee members this agreement allows the city to perform pre-work screens  
150 (physical agility actions such as lifting, pushing and pulling). Hope said it is available to be  
151 utilized, noting the city has looked into updating some of its pre-employment screenings and  
152 including items based on the job description to determine which actions potential employees  
153 must perform. Tests would be established to determine if potential employees could perform the  
154 required tasks. Hope said, “These are in line with the competitors in the area. We don’t  
155 currently use it, but it’s something we can get put in place very easily.”

156  
157 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve renewal of the Gundersen Health  
158 System Lutheran Hospital Agreement for 2019.

159  
160 On voice vote, motion carried.

161  
162 **Adjournment**

163  
164 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

165  
166 On voice vote, motion carried.

167  
168  
169 Recorded by:

170  
171 Kirk Bey

Reviewed 1/3/19 by Fred Buehler & Hope Burchell