Purpose of Finance & Administrative Services Committee:

To enable the City Council to discuss and evaluate in greater detail these specific issues that directly impact the financial and organizational strength of the City of Cedar Rapids.

City Council Committee Members:

Council member Scott Overland, Chair
Council member Ann Poe
Council member Scott Olson
  • Mayor Brad Hart is an ex-officio member of all Council Committees per City Charter Section 2.06.

Also present: Casey Drew (Finance Director), Rob Davis (Flood Control Program Manager)

Agenda – meeting called to order at 4:03pm

1. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting (August 2018) – the minutes were approved as distributed.
   • Reviewed cost estimation of $550m, with construction inflation of 3.5% (based on 25-year construction inflation average) becomes $750m with the east and west sides of the river construction costs being very similar.
   • $342m funding gap at this point to complete the system.
   • Project timeline of 15 years is the quickest timeline projected. Discussion of a possibility of a 15-year timeline vs. a shorter time of 10-12 years to save money on inflation costs.
   • Federal government requires the east side to be completed possibly sooner.
   • Discussed finding the contractors available that can handle this type of construction.
   • Local funding needed $351m total, City bonds issued currently through 2019 $9m for a difference of $342m needed.
     • Discussion of additional bonding possibilities FY20-29 adding in $264m leaving a local funding gap after FY29 of $78m.
     • State funding is $15m/year given to the City for flood funding.
• Proposal for funding is $.22/year every year for 10 years. Bonding does not go up automatically; the Council can adjust to less yearly if appropriate.
• The City will be asking legislation to increase the bond timeframe from 20 years to 30 years.
• Sales Tax grant will cap at $15m for each year, this year currently collecting about $13m, next year we will be collecting the $15m cap.
• Committee members asked if engineering was concerned about the capacity of contractors and engineering does not feel this will be a problem.

There was a motion by Poe and a second by Olson, followed by an unanimous vote to approve this financial plan be added to the September 11th Council meeting.

3. Items for Future Agendas

Meeting adjourned at 4:29pm

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Snitkey, Administrative Assistant II
Finance

Public Comment: (2 minutes per person, total maximum of 10 minutes per meeting)

Outstanding Items Update:
None

Future Topics:

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by Committee member(s) should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the Cedar Rapids City Council. Further, any recommendation(s) the Committee may make to the City Council is based on information possessed by the Committee at that point and time.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Casey Drew at 319-286-5097 or email c.drew@cedar-rapids.org as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the event.