

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 15, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.**

Chairman Logan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Committee members present: Aldermen Logan, Marzahl, Ulmer and Hay. Also present were Mayor Nolan, City Administrator Nelson, Aldermen Perkins, Szczap and Adams, Police Chief Kazy-Garey, Parks & Recreation/PACE Supt. Burkart and Public Works Supt. Kruckenber.

Personnel New Hire

The Committee reviewed Chief Kazy-Garey's request to hire a police officer to replace an officer who has submitted his letter of intent to retire in January, 2009. The next two candidates on the eligibility list have passed all tests and a Police Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 18th. The Chief recommended hiring the next person on the eligibility list, Aaron Palmer, who would attend Police Academy in August. The second person on the eligibility list is Brian Hilligross who has already completed the academy. The Chief recommended that Brian Hilligross be hired immediately so he can complete his FTO Program and be utilized on a part time basis. The general consensus was to follow the Chief's hiring plan as presented.

PACE

Administrator Nelson reviewed his handout pertaining to the PACE Dial-A-Ride Program. As discussed at the last Finance Committee Meeting, there are ongoing problems funding PACE which was about \$70,000 short in the 08/09 Budget. Staff is proposing that the program be reduced to three days a week from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., with one part-time employee who would be the driver. A front office employee resigned and her position has been filled by the current Dial-A-Ride dispatcher, who will continue her dispatch duties in addition to front office water business. The proposed reduction will save the City approximately \$60,000. Staff has reviewed ridership over the period of a year and has determined that between 7-8 a.m. and at 3 p.m., the ridership is comprised of school kids. Additionally, there are 25 individuals, mostly senior citizens, who ride the bus on a regular basis. Dave noted that the PACE Dial-A-Ride Program was not originally designed as a public transportation system but as a Paratransit specifically designed for senior citizens. Although it may not be as convenient as it used to be, senior citizens will still be able to get where they need to go. Staff further recommended that the service levels of the PACE program be reviewed on an annual basis. Administrator Nelson noted that as an option, state statute allows for a public transportation property tax for the elderly and the handicapped through a referendum.

Moved by Marzahl, seconded by Hay to recommend to the City Council that that staff recommendations be approved to reduce the PACE Dial-A-Ride to three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. to become effective on July 1, 2008. All ayes. Motion carried.

Other Budget Items

The Committee reviewed department requests for maintenance and purchases of new equipment.

Moved by Logan, seconded by Hay to approve the purchase of a gas detector in the amount of \$1,200 as budgeted for the Utilities Dept. All ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Logan, seconded by Marzahl to approve the hiring of two individuals for summer help for the Public Works Department as budgeted. All ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Logan, seconded by Ulmer to approve painting the pool in the amount of \$16,500 as a budgeted pool maintenance item. All ayes. Motion carried.

At 7:30 p.m., moved by Ulmer, seconded by Hay to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Scott Logan, Chairman