

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 13, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chambers

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Derek Lundell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call: Derek Lundell, Council Member – present; Steve Gesme, Council Member – present; Matt Montgomery, Mayor – present

Also present: City Administrator Neil Jensen, Utility Clerk Ellen Hartman, Zoning Administrator Dianne Howard, Fire Chief Mike Althoff, Ray Otto, Jason Fehling

**2. FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT**

5-year fire contract expired in 2022. Township officials met previously with the City and went back to townships with the City's request to increase the townships' portion of the fire budget. Fehling, representing the Cannon Valley Rural Fire Association, stated the townships see no increase in future calls or need for new equipment, and 2-3% increases are good enough, but are willing to offer a 4% increase for 5 years. Althoff affirmed that 36% of fire calls are in the township. Althoff stated that fire equipment helps keep City ISO at 5, township population coverage funds fire pensions, and losing the townships would result in loss of pull tab revenue. Althoff conceded that equipment costs are going up.

Montgomery questioned how the townships arrived at a 4% increase; Fehling and Otto did not have a basis for the increase, other than it just felt right. Otto, representing Cannon Falls Township, asked about billing for fire calls; Althoff stated that most calls are not billed out, specific circumstances must be met first, and they do not want to discourage residents calling the department when needed. Jensen stated that 36% of calls are for the township and asked how else the budget should be divided; the funds will have to come from the City if the townships do not cover their share.

Fehling and Otto stated that raising the township portion too quickly would be a hardship. Gesme suggested a two-year contract with a 4% increase, with a goal of negotiating a 5-year 35/65 split contract once the 2-year contract expires.

**Action – *City and township officials will meet in the near future to continue negotiating the fire contract.***

**3. FIREWORKS PROPOSAL**

Howard presented a request from J&M Displays to provide fireworks for a wedding at the Cannon River Winery on July 2, 2023. J&M would like to shoot off the fireworks from John Burch Park at 10:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. City policy states that organizations can apply for fireworks permits. Howard stated that J&M is a private company and would not be considered an organization. Noise complaints and setting a precedent to allow fireworks were other concerns that the committee had.

**Action – *Gesme made a motion to deny fireworks request by J&M Displays, seconded by Montgomery, passing unanimously.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Action – *Gesme made a motion to adjourn at 6:03 p.m., seconded by Montgomery, passing unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ellen Hartman, Utility Clerk