COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

FINANCE, TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
Judy Doesschate, Chair

Meeting called by: Judy Doesschate, Chair  Date: 10-17-18  Time: 5:30PM

Commissioner Jonathon Jones
Raphael Tucker
Robert Ellis

Committee Members Present: Doesschate, Chair ☒ O’Brien ☒ Applyrs ☒ Farrell ☒ Robinson ☐

Council Members Present: Conti, Johnson, Kimbrough and Balarin

City Personnel Present: City Auditor Susan Rizzo and Ann-Marie Salmon

Minutes

Agenda Item: Review of proposed 2019 budget for Parks and Recreation and Youth and Workforce Services

Chair convened the meeting stating members present and agenda item

Points of Discussion:

Department of Youth and Workforce Services

- Recently awarded FHI360 Re-entry Grant. Additional positions have been added to fulfill grant requirements.
- Through this awarded Re-entry grant, Department of Youth and Workforce Services (DYWS) will support second chances and present opportunities for young people
- Continue a year-round comprehensive system of youth employment and development opportunities called Year Round Light (i.e. In-School Work experience program – 20 kids @ minimum wage)
- Expanding on the successful WIOA/MBSK Youth Academies to offer a health academy and continuing pre-construction trades and hospitality which helped transition youth into a successful job placement after utilizing 6 weeks of intensive job coaching
- DYWS plan to be a community/customer focused department that serves 8-second chance participants per month through Compass Rose Collaborative, serve 1,050 youth in the LIGHT program, serve all Veterans with Priority Status, offer 500 Virtual Learning Industry-specific certifications and etc.
- This 2019 budget fully implements the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and expands our departmental outreach services.
- Title change and salary increase submitted are consistent with counterparts in Rensselaer and Schenectady. An effort to bring DYWS employees to a level comparable to those doing the same or similar work is necessary, as more responsibility has been placed on DYWS due to changing eligibility, legislation, and reporting necessary to comply with Federal and State mandated guidelines.
Department of Recreation

- This budget fully implements the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The increased eligibility, reporting, and performance responsibilities have been shared across our current staff to comply with the regulatory requirements.
- Waiting on news of a National Health Emergency Grant to re-employ those affected by the Opioid Crisis (expected notice in October 2018).
- DYWS claim that this budget reduces overall expenditures by over $41,000 from 2018
- After a downsizing space to reduce rent in the shared space with NYSDOL, along with new grants being issued, DYWS expect to save about $41,000.
- With the acquisition of new funding opportunities as well as the reduction in DOL rent for the Career Center, our funding will continue to provide services to the community at no cost to the city.

**Department of Recreation**

- The Department of Recreation (DoR) was able to execute on its playground and parks revision plan in 2018.
- Received an Inclusion Award from Cortland University and an unprecedented asset donation from Kompan.
- Visitors and employees are able to use a secure portal (RecDesk) to enroll in programs, and view availability of activities and facilities.
- Community Centers (Arbor Hill and Hoffman) host events with numerous external community partners.
- DoR was able to use recreation events as a catchment area for more than just sports – youth community surveys (County Health Dept.) and job fairs (Hoffman & Orange Street Park).
- Department goals are to create sports development pipelines for youth athletics, be the training provider for coaches credentials (i.e. NRPA, NYSPRA), provide Monday – Saturday physical activity opportunities and partner with the community we serve to offer activities and services that strengthen the physical, mental, and social skills of our residents.
- This budget seeks to contract with the Albany City School District for permanent lifeguards, discussions in progress
- Plans to use Swinburne as a year-round facility for non-traditional recreation and events, maintain revenue this year to meet expectations and establishes a fee for membership for Adults in Boxing Governor gave department 2 million to stop the violence.
- Title and salary change (6.8% increases) for Recreation Assistant to Building Maintenance Worker. The employee in this position was brought over through a union transfer, and the tasks are better aligned to the Building Maintenance Worker. The Department of Water has this position in their Purification Department at the same salary.
- Title and salary change (6.8% increases) for Recreation Assistant to Laborer II. The current employee had been working at the level of a Laborer II, and responsibilities are better aligned with this job description. This salary is consistent with the union agreement and salary grade.
- Title and salary change (35% reduction) for Custodial Worker to Custodial Worker P/T. The Department claims that facilities are better served with 3 part-time positions rather than a full-time person and two part times. This position would allow all of our sites to be cleaned outside of programming hours. This salary is consistent with other custodial staff around the city.
- Title change from Director of Boxing to Fitness Boxing Instructor. The growth of combat sports has resulted in our programming expanding to Lincoln Fitness Gym. This position is consistent with the City of Norfolk, VA, and compensation is aligned with industry scale. The employee has requested to remain at this site and lead this initiative after successful pilots.
- Title and salary change (41% increases) for Recreation Assistant to Boxing Coach. The expansion of our Boxing program has resulted in more direct instruction and a head coach at the gym. Our former director will lead the initiatives at Lincoln, and this employee will lead instruction and training for the Boxing Gym.
- The Department once had co-Directors, but at this time this is not recommended.
- 2019 new initiatives are Female Empowerment Camp (Combat Sports at Lincoln), expansion of spring/summer park opportunities – Summer Classic Fun at various parks, organic Gardening and Meditation Classes for youth and seniors (with Foster Grandparents program) and staged competition (i.e. Washington Park, Rosemont) – revenue generating special event.
- 2019 Capital Projects include Hoffman: New roof, Administrative building 2nd floor bathroom/kitchen renovation for utilization of added programs and for staff use (outside funding support), boxing: HVAC system, roof, bathroom renovations from outside funding support, Lincoln: The creation of the Park Master Plan will result in projects that will be supported through Capital funding and external grants, vehicles & Field Maintenance Equipment, Playground & Spray pad Equipment, and Court Resurfacing are also a part of our 2019 Departmental Capital Projects.
- Department plan playground modifications at Washington, Westland Hills, Ridgefield, Beverwyck, Tirino Field, and Corning Preserve cannot be done in 2019 but can be done with additional resources in early 2020/21.
The Chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn, which was duly made, seconded, and passed.