COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
FINANCE, TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
Judy Doesschate, Chair

Meeting called by: Judy Doesschate, Chair  Date: 4-10-18  Time: 5:30PM

Chief Warren Abriel
Joseph Toomey
Nicholas Riley
Commissioner Jonathan Jones

Invitees/Speakers Robert Ellis

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

Present:

Council Members
Present: Richard Conti, Derek Johnson and Thomas Hoey

City Personnel
Present: City Auditor Susan Rizzo

Minutes

Agenda Item:

Chair convened the meeting stating members present and that the agenda included all ordinances for bonding requested by the Albany Fire Department and Department of Recreation for 2018.

Points of Discussion:

- After discussion of AFD aerial ladder truck’s age, cost of repairs, usage, Council Member Farrell made a motion to move bond ordinance 16.21.18 for $1,300,000 out of committee with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Council member O’Brien. The motion passed unanimously.
- Council Member Farrell made a motion to move bond ordinance 17.21.18 (for $535,000 for pumping apparatus) out of committee with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Council member O’Brien. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Committee held ordinance 18.21.18 for inclusion of the funding for this project in a bond for “city-owned building improvements,” i.e. ordinance 26.42.18.
- The Committee discussed with Department of Recreation the work that is being done on existing and new playgrounds to make them accessible and ADA compliance, Council Member Farrell made a motion to move bond ordinance 19.21.18 (for $175,000 for playground equipment) out of committee with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Council member Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.
• In discussions with Department of Recreation, the wrong amount was requested for bond ordinance 20.21.18 relating to vehicles because the purchase of an SUV had been approved in 2017. Consequently, 20.21.18 needed to be reduced by $30,000, from $65,000 to $35,000.

• Council Member Farrell made a motion to move bond ordinance 20.21.18 as amended (reduced to $35,000) out of committee with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Council member O’Brien. The motion passed unanimously.

• The Committee discussed the anticipated uses of previously approved bond and this year’s bond request for 21.21.18 (for $99,100 for snow removal equipment)

• Council Member O’Brien made a motion to move bond ordinance 21.21.18 (for $99,100 for snow removal equipment) out of committee with a favorable recommendation conditioned on the delivery of a revised Bond Authorization Request form approved by the Treasurer’s office, the budget office, and Counsel’s office’s determination that the bond language allowed for the revised-approved purchases, which was seconded by Council member Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

• The Committee discussed consolidating “city-owned building improvements,” such as 12.21.18 ($292,000 for APD facility maintenance and improvement) and 18.21.18 ($150,000 for firehouse renovations) into one bond ordinance, 26.42.18 that would increase the previously-approved bond ordinance 9.21.18 to $1,520,000 for improvements to city-owned buildings. Chairperson Doesschate noted that the Department of Engineering coordinates all projects relating to improvements to city-owned buildings and this change should increase efficiencies with regard to the coordination and administration of such projects, improved cost estimates for bonding needed for all city-owned building projects, and facilitate the use of any funds left in bond accounts for building improvements.

• Council Member O’Brien made a motion to move bond ordinance 26.42.18 that would increase bond ordinance 9.21.18 to $1,520,000 for “city-owned building improvements,” out of committee with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Council member Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.