

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2007, 3:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mike Hansen, Chair of the Finance Committee called the meeting to order. Present: Council member Greve. Ewing arrived at 3:34 p.m.

Moved by Greve, seconded by Hansen to approve the July 13, 2006, August 15, 2006 and October 25, 2006 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes. AYES: Two. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Mike Hansen, Chair stated Steve McDermott, Superintendent of the Newton School District along with Bill Peters, High School Principal and Dave Gallaher, Middle School Principal were present to address the many benefits of a quality School Resource Officer Program back into the school district. Tom Wardlow, Police Chief was also present. Some of the highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- An SRO can talk to students in specific situations to warn, educate, and prevent negative happenings and reduce the likelihood and costliness of filing charges.
- An SRO can talk with parents, explaining consequences, and reducing concerns.
- An SRO's presence in the schools helps build a positive image for the Police Department. Students think of the SRO as a friend and a helper.
- An SRO provides great intelligence for the Police Department. The SRO knows and understands the relationships and groupings of teens.

A discussion ensued by the Committee members, Hansen moved to recommend to the full city council to reinstate the SRO Program and to amend the agreement to a three-year commitment.

The next agenda item was a discussion on the Jasper County Transit System. David Watson, City Administrator noted Max Worthington had attended a Council Meeting requesting council to budget funds for the public transportation system. Greve stated it was important to know what they are doing and the financial stability of the company. Mike Hansen, Chair of the Committee directed the City Administrator to provide the financial information to all the council members and to put it on the Regular City Council Agenda, February 19, 2007.

Candice Van Zee, Director of Administrative Services presented the committee with three different budget scenarios. Discussion focused on a ninety-one cent decrease in the levy rate, which would make it \$15.72 for FY 07-08. It was also noted by Van Zee to use \$304,199 in local option sales and service tax revenue. It was a consensus by the committee to recommend the \$15.72 at the city council budget workshop on February 7, 2007.

Moved by Greve, seconded by Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m. Motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

Mike Hansen, Chair

Candice Van Zee, CMC
City Clerk