

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, May 18, 2015**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Chairman Stellato at 7:37 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Chair. Stellato, Ald. Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Turner Bancroft, Krieger, Gaugel, Bessner, and Lewis

**Absent:**

**3. Omnibus Vote**

None.

**4. Inventory Control Division**

- a. Recommendation to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of St. Charles to Approve Award of FY2015/16 Asphalt Bid to Allied Asphalt.**

**Mike Shortall:** On behalf of the Public Works Department, I am seeking approval to accept the low bid for asphalt to Allied Asphalt. This agreement will be in effect for the current FY2015/16.

**Ald. Gaugel:** Could you tell me the price we were currently paying for the service – was it the same as we are getting now per ton or has it increased?

**Mike:** Currently Allied has been holding their prices and has increased 1-1/2 to 2 percent since the recession.

**Ald. Gaugel:** So is that from last year?

**Mike:** Yes.

**Ald. Lemke:** What's the relationship there between Allied and Plote?

**Mike:** Plote was originally who provided asphalt for the area and I believe that Allied bought Plote out and have merged together.

Motion by Ald. Turner, second by Bessner to recommend approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of St. Charles to Approve Award of FY2015/16 Asphalt Bid to Allied Asphalt.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

**b. Recommendation to approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of St. Charles to Approve Award of 2015/16 Concrete Reclamation Bid to Ozinga Ready Mix.**

**Mike Shortall:** On behalf of the Public Works Department, I am seeking approval to accept the low quote for concrete to Ozinga Ready Mix. This agreement is for the current FY2015/16.

Motion by Ald. Silkaitis, second by Bessner to recommend approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of St. Charles to Approve Award of 2015/16 Concrete Reclamation Bid to Ozinga Ready Mix.

**Ald. Lewis:** Why were no bids submitted?

**Mike:** This item was bid and we had zero bidders on it. Again, Ozinga has bought out the local concrete company; we've used Ready Mix for many years and Ozinga gave me a quoted price, they are a local vendor, Public Works likes to use them, they've been dependable for us and I have to present it as a quote.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

**c. Recommendation to approve the extension of the Office Supplies Bid to FY2016/17 from Warehouse Direct for routine office supplies.**

**Mike Shortall:** I'm seeking approval for a 2-year extension on a state bid agreement that is currently in place with Warehouse Direct for general office supplies. This negotiated agreement will be in effect until 2017 and at that time I will rebid for office supplies and go through the whole routine again.

**Ald. Gaugel:** Is this a pricing agreement or is this a flat-out percentage off?

**Mike:** It's a percentage. Last year was our first year that we've used this company. I wanted to bid that out to test the market and see where they were at. We had a previous company for quite a while and Kane County, Naperville, and some of the bigger communities have been using this company and have been very successful and they work well for us as a city too.

**Ald. Gaugel:** Have you looked at what 80% of your spend is which is typically a small minority of the items that are on your total spend list and potentially gotten a pricing for those items aside from just a blanket percentage of everything?

**Mike:** Items like printing, envelopes, and things of that nature we do quote separately, but these are for general items such as pens and smaller items that we use in just general use throughout the City.

Motion by Silkaitis, second by Bessner to recommend approval of the extension of the Office Supplies Bid to FY2016/17 from Warehouse Direct for routine office supplies.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

**5. Finance Department**

- a. Seeking direction to implement a 10% reduction to funding amounts for downtown agencies in response to the State's proposed reductions to the Local Governmental Distributive Fund.**

*Ald. Bessner recused himself from this discussion.*

**Mark Koenen:** I've been with St. Charles long enough to remember the days of receiving double digit increases in sales tax on an annual basis. Most recently we went through a down turn in the economy, but because the City of St. Charles has historically used good judgment and certainly has been aware of the economic environment to make decisions that provides us with our budget today that is strong with sound reserves, and we're still able to provide services to our residents which are recognized as being good and meeting their needs.

We've all read the newspapers and since January, in particular, with regards to the Governor's proposal about how he is going to balance the State's business. No one in this room will quarrel that the State of Illinois has a need to balance their budget. This issue is how that budget balancing is done and in what duration the state's budget is balanced.

One of the proposals that has been floated is a reduction to income tax that the state collects and distributes back to the municipalities in Illinois. I refer to that as the LGDF (Local Governmental Distributive Funds). Presently the City of St. Charles receives about \$3.2M a year. The Governor's proposal is to cut that value by about 50%. That's a conversation that's been had since the first of the year. And to that affect, Chris Minick, myself, and others in local government are saying that's it's not really going to end up to be 50%.

Two weeks ago Mayor Rogina and I were in Springfield and had the opportunity to sit down with representatives from the St. Charles area and some other senators and representatives throughout the state. I think its fair to characterized those conversations as something as likely to be done. We don't know what that is, when it's going to take place, we don't know how many years it may be in place; but we recognized that part of the solution to balance the state's budget is going to involve the municipalities. When the Mayor and I returned to St. Charles, I said to the Mayor that we needed to have a serious conversation about how we are going to move ahead as an organization. At that same time, Chris Minick shared with me that he started to receive some of the calls and requests from outside agencies for funding. As you are all familiar the City

of St. Charles has historically been generous with funding of the outside agencies, and that information is in your packet. Four of those agencies are funded under the municipal code and that information is outline in your packet in terms of amounts. In fact, the code defines for some of those organizations the percent of the hotel/motel tax that is to be used to fund those organizations.

As we move forward, I suggested to the Mayor that perhaps if we want to continue to be that strong community built on a solid budget, that perhaps now is the time to have a very difficult conversation about if we could continue to fund outside agencies at the same level that we've done historically. I suggested that perhaps we should start that conversation and it should sound like "let's take the funding level we had for last fiscal year and cut it by 10%"; let's start that conversation by cutting 10% and that for the City of St. Charles, in terms of money, that would not be spent on outside agencies is just shy of \$100K.

Now the Governor's proposal is to cut the LGDF by 50% which is \$1.6M; a \$100K doesn't get us all the way there, but it's a start and we need to start to plan for that. So what I'm suggesting is just that – that we begin here with a cut of 10% for outside agencies. Having said that, I don't want anyone to leave tonight's meeting to suggest that city staff does not believe quantitatively and qualitatively in the services that are provided by these groups. It's not about that. It's really about an accountant's ledger sheet, trying to cause our budget to stay strong. I don't want anyone walking away saying that Mark Koenen doesn't like them; that's not the case. It would be a lot easier to stand here and have a dozen eyes or so at my back with me telling you that we're going to increase their rates by 10%, but I think we all want a strong community and we all want to look forward with a strong budget.

Having said that, I would like to give a little more detail and talk about the agencies who will be receiving this 10% cut. First is the History Museum and you heard their presentation tonight, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB), Pride of the Fox Riverfest, and Visitor's Cultural Commission (VCC) who are all funded under the ordinance of the motel/hotel tax right now. There is a fifth agency known as the Downtown St. Charles Partnership (DSCP) and they are funded by SSA1B and my complements to those folks in SSA1B, they asked for this task so that they could provide some special opportunities in downtown St. Charles and promote the downtown community. Over the last 2-3 years the City of St. Charles has taken those revenues that have been collected from SSA1B as the revenue stream and have passed that across the DSCP to fund their organization. What I'm suggesting is that we cut that by 10%, that's in the value of \$20K to \$25K. Those dollars would then be used by the City of St. Charles for other purposes that are also included in the original ordinance that this money can be used for. It is important that money is used in the downtown and important to be used for the DSCP programming and services, but also can be used by the City of St. Charles for programs, services, or projects that we used downtown St. Charles. It has to be within a geographic area for that purpose.

One thing that I am not proposing is that we cut the 708 Mental Health Board funding. I've had questions from people in the community and some of you here, but that tax is collected as a

result of a referendum that defines the purpose for collection of that money for mental health. There will not be any revision to that proposal.

Going back to why now is an important time to have this conversation, we are talking about funding these groups for the next 12 months beginning of the fiscal year. What decisions we make in this room over the next 40-60 days will set the tone for their operating within the next 12 months and also sets the tone for our budget. As we hear from Springfield and I'm projecting fall, we'll receive information that we need to deal with our budget or lose the amount of money. Potentially we have to start our own budget process to begin to balance and refocus on what Springfield is going to do to us in terms of our fiscal situation.

The VCC Chairperson, Anne Becker, was not able to join us this evening. They are here hearing presentations for applications for their funding tonight, but she did provide a letter that I would like to read into the record.

*“Dear Esteemed Members of the Government Operations Committee,*

*The city of St. Charles has had a remarkable history of supporting the arts through the grants offered through the Visitors Cultural Committee. We have been the model for several cities in the Fox Valley over the years but none have equaled the quality of neither programs nor structure. Keeping this quality structure has not been an easy road, yet the members of City Council have always seen the value of the arts in our community.*

*As we embark on what appears to be some very difficult times in our state and thus possibly reflected in revenue loss for our city, I would implore the committee to consider some creative ways to meet the financial woes we may be facing in future years. As Mayor Rogina and Mr. Koenen are carefully and wisely projecting “some level of reduction to the LGDF would become a reality for the state’s fiscal year . . .”*

*We recognize that budgets related to public health, safety, and welfare should and must be maintained, we also suggest that the civic organizations that are the ‘calling card’ for people to come to, spend money in and move to our city should not be the only avenue of reaching financial balance due to these reductions.*

*Within the realm of asking you for creative ways to solve this possible reduction I am offering a few solutions as springboards for possible ideas to the committee:*

- *Create a formula or reduction in funds that would be a fair balance of the organizations ‘operating’ budgets, for example, a group with only \$1000 budget versus a group with at \$5000 budget will adjust to a 10% loss in an entirely different way. A formula that would reduce the \$1000 budget by 2%/3% and the \$5000 budget by 7%/8% would be more equitable.*
- *Create a reduction structure that would start with a 3% or 5% reduction this year, and the remaining balance of percentage (to equal 10% total) the following year [assuming that there would not be an additional reduction the following year].*

- *Create a reduction structure that would be shared between the civic organizations and the salaries of the elected members of our city government here is my rationale for this suggestion. The members of the civic organizations are volunteers, thus do not receive a salary. The willingness to share in this budget cut would demonstrate our elected officials concerns for preserving the quality of services that make this community so appealing and the best city to live in Illinois. Imagine the press you would receive for this noteworthy act of civic responsibility and the positive spirit you are creating with your constituents in each of your wards.*

*Thank you for keeping an open mind to possible ideas and solutions to solving this reduction in revenue for our committee.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Anne L. Becker, Ed.D.  
Chairperson  
City of St. Charles Visitors Cultural Commission”*

If there are any questions, Chris and I will try to answer those. I do know there are some folks in the audience tonight that would like to speak.

**Chrmn. Stellato:** Thank you, good summary. Before I turn this over to the audience, are there any questions for Mark?

**Ald. Turner:** So overall we are going to ask the citizens of this community to absorb \$1.5M in cuts which is essential government services. Police, Fire, Public Works, and Administration is going to somehow have to absorb a million dollars in cuts.

**Mark:** If the Governor covers \$1.6M we would need to reduce our budget or programs to some tune to be able to cover those expenses or we would need to look at a revenue enhancement which is the other side of this equation.

**Ald. Turner:** These are essential roles of government. This is what makes government function: fire, police, public works. We’re asking non-essential government organizations, who receive funding, to take a \$100K hit between four agencies. That’s what we’re asking?

**Mark:** Correct.

**Ald. Turner:** And they’re not what we really call a core function of government. They’re basically at the grasps of the taxpayers. They have to give up something so that they can get their money; even though it’s not a core function.

**Mark:** Yes.

**Lynne Schwartz, Executive Director, Downtown St. Charles Partnership, 2 East Main Street:** I just like to say we understand the City’s position and recognize that these budget cuts

are going to affect all of us. We are willing to do our fair share and accept the City's position in doing so. There are, of course, some concerns on the prioritization of the level of services that we provide given the financial constraints. Our role will be to continue to provide quality value added services to our constituents while exercising fiscal responsibility. We will be working with our board as we move forward to take a close look at our budget and priority of work and make adjustments as needed while people keep these goals in mind.

**Ald. Turner:** I would like to congratulate you on your logo for branding of the City. That's the best thing the Partnership has done in 10 years. It took a long time to get what I consider, a professional staff in there, we've had to suffer through some rough times in running this organization. I'm sorry we have to give you this cut, I'm glad you understand why, and hope in the future although, personally, we're going to see these cuts for a long time and things are only going to get worse. They're thinking on taking our sales tax from us; do the best you can. You got a great organization – people actually pay dues for your organization, see value in your organization, and keep up the good work.

**Amy Egolf, Executive Director, St. Charles Visitors Convention Bureau, 311 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street:** In my tenure with the bureau, I think we have the most strongest and most transparent communication between our bureau and the staff of the City of St. Charles and appreciate the fact that Mark called us and had a very candid conversation with us about the 10% cut that you're asking us to take. We absolutely, positively understand the kind of angst we are hearing from Springfield that you're going to have state dollars cut. We've heard exactly the same thing as you are aware we are a state certified bureau. Our board at their April meeting approved a budget based on what we've been told to expect from loss of Illinois Office of Tourism Funds. That loss will amount to \$86K from our budget. For example, our current fiscal year we received \$247K from Illinois Office of Tourism, and if cuts go through that are proposed, we'll be looking at a grand total of \$160,865. Accordingly our bureau has already significantly reduced its FY16 program of work.

Our group sales initiatives have been cut by 30%, our group promotions have been cut by 56%, our Visitor's Guide, that we produce 80K copies of, next year if the state cuts go through, we'll be doing a reprint only.

On the same token our Scarecrow Fest costs continue to rise and we are looking at 7.37% increase due to increase costs for insurance, as well as our commitment in making sure that there is entertainment at the 2015 fest.

Additionally one of our staff members have been informed that her weekly work schedule will be reduced from 4 days to 2 days a week. All of these are based on the state cut that we're anticipating.

Last year you all listen to us when we came and talked about the importance of group business to the "Destination St. Charles" and I will not go into that tonight. I do want to thank you for the confidence that you show in our bureau and also want to say that we can point to the fact that

hotel/motel has increased this year from May through the end of January, 2015 we have experienced an 8% increase in hotel tax collections.

You have in front of you my comments of an article from Crain's that came out April 27 which talks about loss of group business in the City of Chicago. There's definitely a domino effect when hotels in the city of Chicago lose group business, they start to take from the suburbs. You can see from the competitive map that we are the ones that are the furthest out so will be the ones to be hit the most by loss of group business. I know you all think of the great destination that St. Charles is in terms of leisure visitors, but the true bread and butter for our destination is for those rooms that are consumed by group market.

Q Center - over 1,000 guest rooms are 100% consumed by group business and two-thirds of Pheasant Run Resort's rooms, even when they take rooms out of their inventory, will still be for group business. Competition for group business is fierce. We're fighting against Chicago hotels and suburban hotels closer to the city and the airports and are not limited to the Quad Cities, Rockford, and Springfield. These competing Illinois destinations are served by CVB with significantly higher budgets; none of which, at this time, are anticipating local cuts or funding.

If in addition to the state cuts, our local funds are cut by 10%, the loss of an additional \$58,500 will be devastating to the already diminished FY16 program of work. We risk a further decrease in local hotel tax collections. These hotel collections are a significant source of revenues for the City of St. Charles General Fund and provide those dollars that support the local cultural civic organization that were already mentioned tonight.

As you weigh your decision, we ask you to think outside the City of St. Charles. Take a look at those areas within the state of Illinois that your bureau and your hotels are competing against. Take a hard look at the last document we passed out to you entitled FY16 Anticipated Peer CVB Budgets. On that map are names, approximate service areas, and budget numbers for those CVBs who sell against your hotels and our destinations. I'm here as a simple reminder, but your bureau is already the small but mighty CVB helping our hotels compete against properties promoted by bureaus with significantly larger budgets.

We ask you to consider maintaining our funding as we continue to level the playing field between our destination and those we're selling against.

**Ald. Turner:** Why don't you charge membership?

**Amy:** Several reasons but the biggest reason of all is if we do that, we'll then start to compete against our Chamber of Commerce and DSCP and it will actually end up hurting all three organizations. Also we are members of Destination Marketing Association International and according to their criteria, it is their belief that those with budgets under a million dollars should not be a membership organization because of the fact that you have to use staff time to sell and maintain those memberships when those dollars are better directed at direct sales.



**Ald. Turner:** I've had some conversations with the Mayor about the efficiency of our outside organizations. I tend to disagree on the word efficiency. There's a structural problem here. We have a city of 33K people, got the Chamber which is self-sufficient and really should be in here, the Partnership which has a really good base and charges membership. You got three offices, three sets of staff and you're all doing the same thing. Bottom line is you're bringing people into the City to spend money. They're bringing people in to spend money; the Chamber is bringing in people to spend money. Why should we have three staffs and three offices all doing the same thing, and as he pointed out to me, Geneva has one. Geneva has been characterized by a former alderman as they're downtown partnership, they're convention bureau. They put on six festivals a year. Why do we need three when they only have one?

**Amy:** There's a big difference between the product of our destination and Geneva's from the standpoint that we have 2,300 guest rooms; the greatest majority of those are looking for group business.

**Ald. Turner:** Right and the point is structurally, why do we need three offices? Why not one office with one desk for the partnership, one desk for the CVB? You could really cut some costs there.

**Amy:** In due respect, there have been offices in other communities of Illinois that have gone down exactly that road, and they have within a few years' time decided to separate those offices because the organizations have very separate missions and they target entirely different people.

**Ald. Turner:** But the goal is the same. Bring people into town and spend money. You can't deny that and I don't see why we should continue on down this road with three separate staffs and offices. It's incredibly inefficient especially your organization. You're 100% on the taxpayer's goal. You don't even charge a membership.

**Amy:** From our perspective, we are actually using tax dollars that are generated by visitors to put back into the system to promote it to bring more visitors in; and because of that visitors' spending, we're actually reducing the tax burden on the local resident. That's the difference between our bureau and other organizations.

**Ald. Turner:** I don't see that at all.

**Ald. Payleitner:** This is a verification question. It says Q Center 1,042 are 100% consumed by group business. Not a doubt in my mind. What percentage of that group business can you say your group brought in?

**Amy:** It's very difficult to pinpoint that and honestly in relationship to our partnership with Q Center, it's a relatively new partnership due to the fact they changed their own business model. I would say at this point a part of what we provide in terms of services for Q is retention of convention services in order to help them sell those particular clients that they have identified.

**Ald. Payleitner:** Okay, so you can give me a percentage of the groups? How about Pheasant Run?

**Amy:** No, I can't. What I can do is provide a list of pieces of businesses that we've booked. In the big picture of the last three quarters we've brought in just over 3,000 hotel rooms of new pieces of business.

**Ton Donahue, General Manager, Q Center:** I also sit on the Board of Directors for CVB. I've had an opportunity to be on that board for the last five years and it's a refreshing opportunity. It was also very timely because Q Center has been transitioning from an operation that solely was used by the Anderson organization where now we are trying to attract new business from the outside. So your question about how much of that has been driven through CVB; it's still a smaller percentage, but our business model is now reaching out to non-traditional Q Center clients, such as, associations, SMURF groups which are people who want to come and bring a spouse or significant other along and want to enjoy the local areas and take advantage of everything it has to offer. Our traditional people didn't have the time to break away to do that; and as a result the CVB is rather important to our business growth for the next five years.

Overall from my perception as General Manager, the CVB and director does a marvelous job. There is a return on investment clearly there on the return of dollars spent vs. what is brought into the local coffers; we all benefit from that. For example, May and November is one of our busiest months and these past three weeks we've had several clients in that have maxed out the facility. 1042 guest rooms filled last week plus we had 200 guest rooms in six local hotels. The previous week the number was slightly smaller but still off-site each and every week. Last week 1,400 people also went to 12 different restaurants, most of them to dine on any given evening and also includes transportation for them to get there.

Everyone is challenge at the expenses of running a business and only want you to thoughtfully consider that the revenue generation by the CVB is substantial and far exceeds the money it takes to run that business and it's something you should consider as you make your difficult decisions.

**Ald. Lemke:** I heard that you do have spill over business as well; so when your group that books exceeds the number of rooms you have – you use local hotels as well?

**Tom:** Yes, probably 6 to 12 times a year we'll do that and we have relationships with many of the local facilities. We try to keep it in town so that we can have provided shuttle service.

**Ald. Turner:** In case your right and I'm wrong that we're going to be losing revenue by cutting you by 10%, my main focus is our residents. The Finance Director has already informed me and I've checked the figures, we'll be paying \$1M less in bonds fees next year – correct?

**Chris Minick:** Yes.

**Ald. Turner:** And the year after that the bond payment goes down by another \$300K; so just in case we do have a fall-off in hotel revenue, we're going to have a significant amount of money next year to make up for that difference. I think this is a good time to see that as long as we got this potential of a million dollars – it's a good time to see what a 10% reduction would actually do to our revenue.

**Steve Martin, 1485 Banbury Avenue, St. Charles:** I want to make sure that everyone understands a few points. 1) Geneva has one hotel – St. Charles has 11 plus the Q Center. 2) The CVB is bringing people from out of town to spend their money and we are collecting the tax from them – not from St. Charles residents. So as a resident of St. Charles, I say the more people we can bring in to stay in our hotels and spend money on St. Charles – the better off we are.

**Ald. Silkaitis:** I don't enjoy doing this or eliminating any boards, but I believe in being proactive instead of reactive. It's coming down and we can't stop it. We don't know how bad it's going to be. If 10% doesn't happen, we can revisit the 10% reduction next year. Right now I'm not going to get caught in the middle and not having prepared for this. I presume other cities are having the same discussions as we as to what can we do to fix this problem. 10% across the board, I don't like it, but I have to be fiscally responsible in this seat. If it does go through there will be other cuts within the City. This is not just going to be one group of organizations getting cut. I don't know what the future holds, but we got to start somewhere.

**Ald. Payleitner:** I don't want to get off track and have to validate the existence of these organizations, because that's not what this conversation is about. It's share the pain conversation. The LGDF is going to be cut 50% and on the boards that I sit on I was being hopeful and let's talk 30%. So 10% is reasonable in my opinion.

**Ald. Lemke:** We started discussion in saying we might not know until September, but this is a matter of preparation and certainly it is not beyond me to write letters and take every opportunity to talk to our state house members to read the news clips around the state. Everybody is leaning on their state representatives for the same issues. We hope it doesn't happen but we need to get our house in order if this is what may happen in September.

**Ald. Turner:** I think we should go ahead with the 10% reductions.

**Ald. Gaugel:** I think most everyone I've talked with on the Council have a greater affection for one of these having served on a board. It's not an easy decision. The reason why we're in this predicament in the first place is that the state didn't plan and do it properly. The state had terrible spending. We can't be a party to that down the road. It's a very difficult decision. It's an easier decision to do it now instead of waiting until September to have to do it.

**Ald. Lewis:** I'm in agreement that it is difficult. I know you and sit in meetings with you and see you at dance recitals all over town. To have to make these decisions is difficult because we are friends and one community. As said, this is the tip of the iceberg, we don't know where it's going from here. I think it will continue as the state continues to cut our funding and our fiscal judiciary responsibility to provide the core services that need to be looked at first.

**Ald. Krieger:** I also find this very difficult but I think being across the board to be fair with everyone; it's the only way to go.

**Ald. Bancroft:** I wish I could do as good of a job as City Administrator Koenen in expressing his feelings on this whole situation.

**Chrmn. Stellato:** This is a somber conversation here and it's not something we enjoy. We rather have you here giving us your presentations which you all do a good job with. The fact that we're in this room discussing this separates us from a lot of other communities. The fact was brought up that we have so many hotels and others do not; the fact that we have organizations in our community doing good work. It's positive that we are all here but the negative part is we have three choices: we all need to cut expenses, cut services, and raise revenue. There is no other solution. Our option to raise revenue, from this council, is not an option. To raise revenue is to raise your taxes and I don't see that as a solution. Cutting expenses, we are going to have to do that on the \$1.5M, and if we cut services – we cut things like Spring Cleanup completely. We are raising our utility fees. All this is coming to a head. I appreciate your patience and hard work in getting through this.

Motion by Ald. Turner, second by Bancroft to implement a 10% reduction to funding amounts for downtown agencies in response to the State's proposed reductions to the Local Governmental Distributive Fund.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Turner, Bancroft, Krieger, Gaugel, Lewis; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

*Let the record reflect that Ald. Bessner has rejoined us.*

**6. Executive Session**

- Personnel
- Pending Litigation
- Probable or Imminent Litigation
- Property Acquisition
- Collective Bargaining
- Review of Minutes of Executive Sessions

Motion by Ald. Lemke, second by Silkaitis to enter into Executive Session at 8:27 to discuss Personnel.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Turner, Bancroft, Krieger, Gaugel, Bessner, Lewis; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Ald. Lemke, second by Bessner to come out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Stellato did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

**7. Additional Items from Mayor, Council, Staff or Citizens.**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

Motion by Ald. Lemke, second by Silkaitis to adjourn meeting at 9:08 p.m.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Turner did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

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