

Common Council
October 19, 2023
Finance Committee Meeting
Common Council Chambers

Committee Members:
Christopher Briggs, Chairperson
Donald Russell
Adam Biggs

All Committee Members present

Christopher Briggs called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Chair Briggs mentioned that the focus of the meeting was to have both Chief Fahd and Chief Waldin to discuss their respective budgets and answer any questions in regard to their budget and department.

Briggs asked Chief Fahd to go first. Chief Fahd did not have any concerns regarding the Annual Estimate/budget that was passed by the Board of Managers that was currently being review by the Finance Committee. Chief Fahd mentioned that full staffing was 32 and there was a line item to hire four new Firefighters to bring the department up to full staffing. There was a discussion as to whether 32 or 33 was considered full staffing from Rob Wattsman. Mayor Keeler replied that was a consideration to have 33 but the addition to 33 did not resolve the issue of staffing all three Fire Houses so the Hill Station was open for the majority of the time so 32 should currently be considered fully staffed. Also discussed was possible retirements which effects staffing levels. Chairman Briggs asked a question regarding water rescues and a new boat. Chief Fahd was hoping that a grant could be used to fund a purchase.

Chief Waldin was next, and he also did not have any concerns regarding the Annual Estimate/budget that was passed by the Board of Managers that was currently being review by the Finance Committee. Chief Waldin addressed staffing and said the there was a line item for hiring three new officers. He went on to explain school/training process for new hires and that it takes a good part of a year before a new officer can take on full duty responsibilities. Chief Waldin also addressed the Salary of Annmarie Potts's salary. He explained that her current salary is only a 2% increase and the large percentage increase shown is because Ms. Potts received an interim raise in 2023. He also went on to explain that raise was requested by him because of the additional workload that Ms. Potts had taken on. Finally Chief Waldin expressed great satisfaction in the Departments accomplishments.

Chairman Briggs thanks everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn at 6:50 PM.