



City of Cedar Rapids
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
City Hall Training Room
March 25, 2015
4:00 p.m.

Meeting was brought to order by Council member Gulick at 4:00 p.m.

Present, Council members Gulick (Chair); Olson and Russell; Casey Drew, City Finance Director, Steve Heishner, City Utilities Director; Sandy Fowler, Director of Development Services & Assistant City Manager; Sharon Cummins, VenuWorks; and Matt Felling, Doubletree.

Minutes for the meeting held on January 8, 2015 were approved.

Finance Director, Casey Drew gave a short review of the City's Financials and reported that everything is on track with the budget and is as expected for this time of year.

Utilities Director, Steve Hershner and Holly Ruble made a presentation to the committee on the newly adopted Green Purchasing Principles.

On January 10, 2012, the City Council adopted the following Guiding Principles of Sustainability for the City of Cedar Rapids:

1. **Community** – Building a community that embraces its diversity and history.
2. **Growth** – Advancing opportunities for businesses, individuals and the community as a whole to thrive.
3. **Environmental stewardship** – Promoting economic and social growth while restoring the relationship between the City and its natural environment.
4. **Affordability** – Creating a city that is affordable and accessible to all members of the community.
5. **Innovation** – Serving as a leader in creative, successful strategies to lead the progression towards a sustainable future.

The purpose of Green Purchasing Principles is to establish a common set of principles that ensure the intentional practice of buying goods and services which improve public health and safety, reduce pollution, waste, & hazardous materials and conserve natural resources & energy while continuing to balance concerns about the price, performance, & availability.

Casey announced that Hotel-Motel Tax totals around 3 million, of which \$1,626,000 is already committed to debt payments, leaving 1.3 million for allocation.

A discussion following and it was decided that Casey would make up an executive summary of all applications and present to the committee at its next meeting. Kris Gulick has chosen to recuse himself due to private business conflicts.

Sharon from VenuWorks and Matt Felling from Doubletree presented the committee with an Entertainment Venues' Financial Performance Review. Sharon pointed out that VenuWorks now has 50 venues throughout the U.S. and 4 of them are in Cedar Rapids. She said all venues need to be subsidized but the Ice Arena now has a reserve. Kris asked Sharon to write up a summary to present to the City Council.

Matt shared that 2015-16 is looking very good for events and both quality and quantity have improved. He pointed out that the City venues are very valuable assets for our community.

During the Public Comment Segment; a citizen commented on Storm Water Fees.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Grover, Finance Administrative Assistant II