



# OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

DAWN M. JONES, CITY CLERK

## PERSONNEL & FINANCE

MARCH 14, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Sheila Niezgodski, Eli Wax, Rachel Tomas Morgan, Troy Warner, Henry Davis Jr.

Committee Members Absent: Aaron Steiner (Citizen Member)

Other Council Present: Sharon L. McBride, Karen L. White, Canneth Lee, Lori K. Hamann

Other Council Absent: None

Others Present: Dawn Jones, Bianca Tirado, Victoria Trujillo, Bob Palmer

Presenters: Dan Parker, Eric Horvath

Agenda: *Bill No. 08-22 – Q1 Additional Appropriation Ordinance*

Committee Chair Sheila Niezgodski called to order the Personnel & Finance Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Full audio dialogue of the meeting is available upon request from the City Clerk's Office.

### **Bill No. 08-22**

Dan Parker, City Controller, with offices on the twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) floor of the County-City Building, presented Bill No. 08-22.

Eric Horvath, Public Works Director, with offices on the thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) floor of the County-City Building, added that these are high-level estimates, and it is hoped costs will come down to secure and renovate the building.

Vice-Chair Eli Wax asked why more money is being appropriated than is needed before actual costs are known.

Dan Parker responded that staff hopes to move forward with a high-level architectural agreement to determine the budget for the project. The appropriation allows the architect to be engaged, showing them the high-end of what the city can do.

Vice-Chair Eli Wax stated he would be surprised if an architect required an appropriation before having a conversation on the project.

Dan Parker responded it is helpful for them to know that dollars are there to undertake drawings.



Committeemember Troy Warner asked how many AEDs would be purchased for the police force and if every car would have an AED.

Chief Scott Ruszkowski, SBPD, 701 W. Sample Street, South Bend, Indiana, stated that he would have to confirm the number of AEDs.

Committeemember Rachel Tomas Morgan asked if any resolutions or agreements need to be completed by St. Joseph County.

Dan Parker replied that the County owns the building and does not need to do anything; the City only pays twenty-six percent (26%). The project will benefit the County by giving it more space.

City Clerk Dawn Jones spoke in favor of this project. Seven million one hundred thousand dollars (\$7,100,000) was put into renovations of the SBCSC building in 2005.

Vice-Chair Eli Wax stated that once money is appropriated, there are no strings attached. The Council's job as the fiscal body is to ensure funds are responsibly appropriated. He would be more comfortable with this appropriation if there were a better idea of the actual budget.

Committeemember Henry Davis Jr. asked about the cost of erecting a brand-new building.

Dan Parker responded that Mishawaka is erecting a new building for twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

Committeemember Henry Davis Jr. requested confirmation that it would cost twenty-eight million dollars (\$28,000,000) to purchase and renovate the existing building.

Dan Parker responded that it is two million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$2,800,000) to buy the building and an estimated five million dollars (\$5,000,000) to renovate.

Committeemember Henry Davis Jr. stated that building usually costs one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) per square foot.

Dan Parker responded a property this size would be just under ten million dollars (\$10,000,000).

Vice-Chair Eli Wax stated the construction costs had been significantly rising over time, and every estimate he has heard is over two hundred dollars (\$200) per square foot.

Committeemember Rachel Tomas Morgan made a motion to send Bill *No. 08-22* to the Committee of the Whole with a favorable recommendation. Committeemember Troy Warner seconded the motion, which carried by a voice vote of five (5) ayes.

With no further business, Chair Sheila Niezgodski adjourned the Personnel & Finance meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Sheila Niezgodski, Committee Chair