

CITY OF SPARTA
FINANCE AGENDA
October 4, 2023

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Consent Agenda: Consisting of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 6, 2023**
- 3. Consideration of Tourism Funds Request for Monroe County Historical Society for Monroe County Arts & Craft Show at Sparta High School**
- 4. Discussion of Audit Review**
- 5. Discussion of 2024 Budget Updates**
- 6. Items for Future Consideration**
- 7. Adjourn**

A possible quorum of the Common Council may be in attendance at this meeting but no action will be taken by the Council.

Posted: 10/02/2023

CITY OF SPARTA
FINANCE MINUTES
September 6, 2023

PRESENT: Matthew Hoffland, Bruce Humphrey, Josh Lydon

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Sund, Todd Fahning, Kevin Riley, Booker Ferguson, Jim Church, Michelle Tryggestad

Josh Lydon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Bruce Humphrey and seconded by Matthew Hoffland to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 9, 2023. Motion carried 3-0.

Mark Sund presented a very preliminary 2024 Budget. He stated the city should be receiving a sizeable State Shared Revenue payment, which will allow the city to do a few extra things within the budget. He should receive confirmation sometime in October.

Bruce Humphrey asked where he thought the expenditures and revenues will fall. Mark stated both should be about equal but may see a slight increase. It was also asked about the Equalized Value. Mark stated it should be done and available through the Department of Revenue and that he will be checking on the status. He believes it will be an approximate 7% increase. It was also asked about our borrowing percentage. Mark stated we are currently at approximately 32% of our borrowing capacity, with the City Council typically instilling a 50% max threshold. We have ample room should anything come up.

Matthew Hoffland asked about the status of the ARA funds available. The city has between \$300,000 and \$400,000 remaining. Funds need to be allocated by the end of 2024 and disbursed by the end of 2026.

Mark discussed the city's open TID districts. He stated TID #8 (Hemstock Drive area) is slated to close in 2024 and TID #6 (Theisens and adjacent area) will probably be closed in late 2024 or early 2025. That leaves only TID #9 open and potentially TID #10 if it is passed this month.

A motion was made by Bruce Humphrey and seconded by Matthew Hoffland to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Lydon
City Clerk

Dear City of Sparta Board

The Monroe County Historical Society is very happy to be back in Sparta and bring back the people and commerce to the community. We have the two shows per year, one in the spring and the biggest one in the fall, Some vendors stay at the local motels, eat at the restaurant/fast food places, and purchase gas from the local stations, along with snacks for the trip home. We also believe that the shoppers stop at the city businesses down town for some local shopping before going home.

When Covid-19 hit, we had to stop our shows in the School building. Then when we could resume we were regulated to having smaller shows in Tomah where that city's business profited by the show.

We are now pleased to return to Sparta High School and raise monies for the Sparta Community.

Our shows finance the Transportation Grants from Monroe County Historical Society that allow students from the Monroe County schools to visit the Monroe County Museums, Wagner Grotto, and various other sites in Monroe County. We also donate monies for interns for the Monroe County Local History Room, Tomah Historical Society Museum and The Deke Slayton Museum or other items that these museum may need.

We also pay the school, High School, or Meadowview, for the use of the facilities and the maintenance people, which takes up a large amount of our profits from the show. We also pay for advertising in the many newspapers. With the payment of these bills, it doesn't allow us to bring as many students and schools to the Museums and other venues such as the Brackett School – the one room school house as we would like.

The Spring show is around 150 booths, and the fall show is around 300 booths and both shows are growing.

We would greatly appreciate it if your organization could see your way to provide us with some of the tourism money to help Monroe County Historical Society pay toward the expense of Sparta High School for their serve to this event.

Sincerely,

Arts & Craft Show coordinators,

Cheryl Weber and Kathy L. Pulham