

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 26TH, 2021 beginning at 7:58 P.M.

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Stewart, Tollett, Baird, Jessie, Davis

CD PRESENT: Chair Callahan, Cerra, Oswald, Jessie, Absent: Mitchell

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Mayor Whitfield, Safety Service Dir Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Building Official Farkas, Engineer Schneider, Asst Engineer McKillips, CD Director Scott, CD Manager Almobayyed, Asst Director Calvert, Councilpersons Keys and Simmons

1. Approval of the Regular Finance Meeting Minutes ~ JUNE 28th, 2021 .

Mr. Baird moved, seconded by Mr. Jessie to approve the said Meeting Minutes.

2. The matter of inactive/delinquent EPU Accounts to be certified to Lorain County Auditor's Office. (*Standing Referral*)

REFERRED BY: Public Works Supervisor Conner

Mr. Brubaker said this is standard procedure.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Baird seconded to recommend a resolution to certify said charges to the Lorain County's Auditor's Office.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of the consideration of the purchase of 10 Evolis XL Solar Powered 28 X 28 Radar Speed Signs at a cost of \$27,495 for ten signs and an additional cost of \$12,000 for poles, which will bring to total cost to \$39,495.

REFERRED BY: Councilperson Jessie *(This matter was passed by Utilities Committee on 7/14/2021)*

Finance Dir Pileski said that the costs for these will be part of this evening's appropriation changes and this matter to be paid from the 2016 .50 percent income tax fund and the Police Dept. Operating & Maintenance Fund Account of a cost of \$39,495, which will include the poles.

Mayor Whitfield asked what the goal is for purchasing these, at \$40,000? What are we hoping to get out of this.

Councilperson Jessie said they get calls from residents about speeding. They get requests for police to set up radar. Mr. Jessie spoke to Capt. Hammonds and asked about patrol which is challenging. Capt. Hammonds said they are getting results from the 4 portable radar signs. Four for the city is not many. It's recommended to get more portable signs. Mr. Jessie spoke to Chief Whitely who recommended the solar powered permanent signs. To have them permanently located in places where there is the greatest issues. These will also tell us what time of day speeders are speeding and what the mph they are going. Chief Whitely recommended getting 10 solar signs and they could be placed in 5 locations in the City, going both directions. Mr. Jessie said that these signs are friendly reminders to slow down. And the 'thank you' on the sign is

a positive re-enforcement.

We have the funds to do this and we would have to decide where the locations will be.

Mayor Whitfield said that we've identified the issue of speeding throughout the City in various blocks. It's important for the Police to help determine how to solve these problems. If this money could be used to hire another officer to be on patrol, that would be a good solution. But getting data from these is important and perhaps place an officer on that street so they can ticket those speeders. The data will be one part of the solution but actually solving the problem of speeders is the main issue. He's hopeful that the 'thank you' on the sign will be enough to deter speeders but the data will be proof if an officer is needed.

Councilperson Davis said that on her street [Bell Ave.] folks see the signs and actually speed up instead of slowing down.

Mayor Whitfield said that he agrees that some folks do speed up instead of slowing down. Another thing to deter is speed bumps. This is a problem that needs to be solved, needs to be figured out. The data from these will be extremely helpful.

Mr. Jessie agrees that we need more police officers and we're actively trying to recruit and hire more. With this he was told by Captain Hammonds and Chief Whitely that these would help.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mr. Jessie seconded to recommend an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract for the purchase of the 'said' speed signs.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise for and award a contract for construction of a pedestrian bridge/sidewalk on Fuller Road over the bridge ditch.

REFERRED BY: Engineer Schneider *(This matter was passed by Utilities Committee on 7/14/2021)*

Engineer Schneider said Fuller Road has challenges in regard to pedestrian traffic on the south side of the road has sidewalks, but the north side is lacking. The area in question is where there is a ditch, which is east of Scott Ct. and that area is actually owned by the City. The Gordon Manor Apartments are right next to this ditch. There have been complaints, in order to cross the ditch pedestrians have to cross the road first. The traffic along Fuller Rd. has picked up over the years so it's a safety issue. They would install a pedestrian bridge across the ditch on the north side of the road, which is owned by the City. The bridge would be 100 foot wide to accommodate possible bike route in the future. South Park currently has bike routes have been installed in the park itself. The overall price is \$175,000, which includes the engineering cost to design the project. It's not in the budget this year but there may be some Issue 6 Funds available.

Mrs. Davis said that will be helpful because people do park in that area during EHS Football Games.

Mr. Tollett said this is a safety issue as well. And it needs to be done and he supports this.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to authorize the Mayor to advertise for and award a contract for construction of a pedestrian bridge/sidewalk on Fuller Road over the bridge ditch.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of submitting applications to the office of the Attorney General, State of Ohio and accept, if offered, the 2021-2022 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant.

REFERRED BY: Law Director Deery

Law Dir Deery said these grants are applications that are submitted each year. These funds are applied and make up a significant portion of our Victims Witness Advocate Program. It goes toward the salaries and equipment they use on cases at Elyria Muni Court.

Chair Stewart said there is a history with this and is part of the Law Director’s advocacy of this and it’s money well earned and spent and this opportunity

Mr. Baird moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to authorize the Law Director to submit applications for the ‘said’ grants and accept if offered.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of amendments to the 2021 Permanent Appropriations Ordinance No. 2021-50. (Standing Referral)

REFERRED BY: Finance Director’s Pileski and Farrell

Assistant Dir Farrell said there are two appropriations changes this evening.

- 1.) Law Enforcement Trust - Operating & Maintenance - an increase of \$48,000 (for patrol rifles for the police department).
- 2.) Elyria Muni Recovery Court - Salary & Wages and Benefits & Pension - increase of \$17,000 and \$3,000 (total = \$20,000 of additional grant monies that were rec’d).
- 3.) 2016 .50% Income Tax - Police - Operating & Maintenance - increase of \$39,495 (for solar speed radar signs).
- 4.) 2016 .50% Income Tax - Street Repair - Capital Outlay - increase of \$175,000 - (for Fuller Road walking bridge).

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance to authorize appropriation changes to the 2021 Permanent Appropriations.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Mr. Baird moved and second by Mr. Tollett to adjourn this evening’s Finance Meeting at 8:18 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by,

*Colleen Rosado,
Council Clerk Secretary*

(Committee Meeting was attended by Secretary Rosado ~ Meeting Minutes were transcribed by Secretary Rosado).

