

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2021 beginning at 6:25 P.M.

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

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

UTILITIES PRESENT: Chair Mitchell, Simmons, Davis, Cerra Absent: Keys

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Brubaker, Mayor Whitfield, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Williams, Asst Dir Calvert, Engineer Schneider, Asst Engineer McKillips, CD Dir Scott, CD Manager Almabayyed, WWPC Supt Korzan, WWPC Asst Supt Stefek, Asst Law Dir Breunig

1. Approval of the Regular Finance Meeting Minutes ~ OCTOBER 25th, 2021.

Mr. Baird and, seconded by Mr. Tollett to approve the 'said' Meeting Minutes.

2. The matter of a Moral Claim as submitted by Melonie Houske of 125 Tannery St.

Referred By: Melonie Houske

Director Brubaker said Ms. Houske had spoken at a previous Council Meeting on the issue of the damages to her home at 125 Tannery St. She submitted a 'Claim For Damage' form and that request was denied. Ms. Stefek of the WWPC Plant is here today to explain the issue from the City's standpoint. It appears that our WWPC crews were in the area cleaning some lines and it caused sewage to blow back into Ms. Houske's basement. She has never had an issue with sewage in her basement before. Come to find out there was another sewer line that was back there behind her property that we did not have on the City's records, which would be likely for the determination of the denial. It was not a pipe that we knew about. It appears that the damages that were caused in Ms. Houske's basement were a result of our crews and the work that they were doing which forced that sewage into her property.

Ms. Houske submitted a bill which is not covered by insurance, because she didn't have insurance coverage for this because she never had any issues like this. Therefore she's not asking for the deductible because it's the entire bill that needs to be paid. The amount of her claim is \$7,457.24 and it's the recommendation of the Ms. Stefek of the WWPC Plant and the administration due to the fact this was caused by the crews that were doing the work.

Ms. Houske of 125 Tannery St., lived there for 33 years. Her house is next door to the Elyria Pump House, which is a sewage pump station. She said there was about 4 inches of straight sewage, not storm water, just sewage. She has never had any issues with water in her basement, ever, for 33 years. She said there was Roto-rooter worker at her neighbor's next door to here and the city crews were working at the pump house. She said she was working outside and everyone finished about the same time. They got the neighbor's line opened when they heard a giant 'whooshing' sound. Then she said she went into her house and it smelled terrible and she discovered the sewage. That giant whooshing sound was the sewage coming up in her basement.

Ms. Houske is asking for some relief from what she's incurred. The cleaning and disinfecting is on-going in the basement. She needs to get the bills paid.

Chair Stewart thanked Ms. Houske. He said it was unfortunate that she had to go through this and he feels she should be paid for what she's asking for.

Chair Stewart asked Ms. Stefek what is going on with the other sewer line at that pump station that the crews didn't know about?

Ms. Stefek said this was a pipe that was discovered because the house at 115 Tannery had a gas odor and the crews put the camera in the main sewer line and then they realized that there were no laterals tied to that line. So, they contacted engineering and found this backyard line which was supposed to be abandoned and all the houses tied in and unfortunately it wasn't.

Ms. Stefek offered her sincere apologies of what happened to Ms. Houske. They didn't even know that there was a manhole back there. Ms. Stefek said that once they start maintaining and cleaning it, they will be sure to notify Ms. Houske. With the circumstances of the roots they had to get the water out of the other resident's basement.

Chair Stewart said that the amount that is being considered is \$7,457.24.

That amount to pay has been moved by Mr. Baird and seconded by Mr. Tollett
Mr. Baird moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing payment to Ms. Houske of 125 Tannery Street in the amount of \$7,457.24.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Stewart asked where those funds would be paid from?

Dir Pileski said they would come out of the Waste Water Pollution Control Fund, WWPC Miscellaneous Department, Operating Maintenance Account.

3. The matter of a Mora Claim submitted by Mark and Becky Haller of 410 Briar Lake Dr.

Referred By: Mark and Becky Haller

Director Brubaker said this issue is a Storm Water situation, sanitary lateral where there was a back up on the basement of the Haller's in September 2021. They are requesting their deductible to be reimbursed in amount of \$1,000.

Mrs. Haller of 410 Briar Lake Dr. Mrs. Haller first wants to commend the City of Elyria in how everyone has been very helpful to their situation. Mr. Oswald has been on top of this and has been so attentive. Also, Dir Brubaker, Kelly, Colleen, Terry Korzan, John Schneider, Phil Tollett, everyone who they had to speak to had contacted them back right away. A special thanks to Chris at the WWPC.

They have lived at the address for 16 years and there has never been a problem with flooding. In May of 2020, they flooded the 1st time. After that happened they incurred over \$11,000 in damages. After that they had a back-flow valve installed. They hoped that would take care of the problem. In July of 2021 they had problems with the sinks, toilets and showers after a rain and would have a plumber come out to jet out the sewer line. That had to be done 3 times in 2 weeks. After that they called WWPC and Chris is the employee who come out to their residence right away. They asked if this is a problem since it keeps backfilling after the rain and it's all full of sludge and debris. Chris suggested that they put a back flow valve in closer to the sidewalk, which they did. They've installed 2 back flow valves which the City does not mandate. After that, Mr. Haller took the 1st back flow valve out and on August 25th they flooded again. This time they incurred about \$4,900 of damages. It's a lot of work and their 83 year old mother who lives in the lower level of the house has no where to live.

The water is a mix of storm water and sewer water. They've had to file 2 claims with their insurance company; May 2020 and August 2021. They've had to file 2 claims with their insurance company and 4 claims on their sewer line esp insurance in the last year.

Mrs. Haller said she was told that there are several problems, one being a pump station at the park and that they need larger lines to redirect the water into the Windward Project and the big one, which is the basin at the end of Windward. They live on the corner of Briar Lake and Windward. She said that they've been instructed to call the WWPC plant as soon as it rains and they will send someone out.

Chair Stewart thanked Mr. & Mrs. Haller and asked if anyone had questions?

Mr. Oswald said that the Haller's were genuine in doing exactly what the City was trying to get them through this serious problem. The City knows there are issues in that area that are going to fixed as soon as possible. He feels it is fair for the City to pay their deductible of \$1000 to reimburse them.

WWPC Superintendent Korzan said they do have an understanding with the homeowners that they are still trying to figure out what is causing the issue. He said after the homeowner put the second back flow in at the sidewalk and taking the other one that was

closer to the house was a good decision. Because the first one was too close and it wasn't allowing them to use their plumbing while it was raining. He doesn't know why the back-flow pre-venter failed during the August 25th rain. They don't know if the Windward siphon is actually causing the problem. The back-flow pre-venter should've closed and not allowed anything in the lateral pipe. That's why we to go out there during the next rain event, to see what happens and what is causing the issue. The Haller's hired a plumber to jet clean the line three times. Maybe the solids are between the house and the back-flow pre-venter or are they building up between the back-flow and the City sewer. Until we know that, we're missing a couple of pieces of the puzzle.

Mrs. Stefek said this issue is still pending to see as far as the back-flow pre-venter and to see what the ongoing issue is. The Abbe Road lift station at the park doesn't have anything to do with Briar Lake and Windward. They did do extensive work on Windward siphon last fall to clean and C&K put a camera down.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing payment to Mr. & Mrs. Haller of 410 Briar Lake Dr. in the amount of \$1,000.00.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Dir Pileski said they would come out of the Waste Water Pollution Control Fund, WWPC Miscellaneous Department, Operating Maintenance Account.

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

REFERRED BY: Public Works Supervisor Conner

This is standard procedure.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend a resolution authorizing the said delinquent accounts.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of applying for and accepting an OCJS Violent Crime Reduction Grant.

Referred By: Safety Service Director Brubaker

Asst. Dir Williams said this is an application which is due today, it's been completed and submitted and it's for the amount of \$75,000. This is a grant to assist the Police with violent crime reduction. It will entail placing cameras at 3 places where we have high crime. This will be in conjunction with another project as relates to crime reduction, which includes Block Watch Programs and other pieces. Through Capt Pelko and our grant writer and our IT Dept, we've put this together. It's a reimbursement, no matching funds are needed.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor for apply and accept the said grant.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of finding City Property, 2004 Ford F550 Chipper Truck unfit for public use and offering it for sale on Govdeals.com.

Referred By: Safety Service Director Brubaker

Dir Brubaker said this is a chipper truck that was replaced several months ago by a grant and part of the grant is that the old equipment needs to be removed from our fleet. And to dispose of it thru govdeals or by the best way we can get the best return.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend a resolution declaring the said equipment is no longer needed and is unfit for public use.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Mr. Tollett moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the said unfit equipment to be sold on Govdeals.com and best means possible.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of adding a line to ECO 109.07 (a) for Cemetery Fees of \$400 for Saturday Columbarium Service.

Referred By: Safety Service Director Brubaker

Dir Brubaker said they have a Saturday service fee of \$800 which is to cover the cost of 3 employees to work on a Saturday to do a full burial. Because we have added columbariums at the cemetery we now have 128 columbariums they are the concrete vaults that the urns go into. They are seeing more of these being sold and more Saturday burials. It didn't seem to be equivalent to charge \$800 that only takes one employee to unscrew the lid of the columbarium vault, have a service and put the urn into the vault and re-screw it. They want to add a columbarium service of \$400 to the ECO. The \$400 will cover the overtime cost of one employee to work that service. The fee ordinance will also have to be changed to add the \$400 columbarium Saturday Service.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing adding the said fees to ECO section 109.07 (a).

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of creating a new Special Revenue Fund per Court Order.

Referred By: Finance Director Pileski

Dir Pileski said he received a court order which stated that Muni Court is raising court costs by \$2 for every case filed, including criminal, civil and traffic. The \$2 is to be used for the implementation and operation of the electronic messaging system. The courts want the Dir to account for this in a new special revenue fund, which will be entitled , Municipal Court Electronic Messaging Fund.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance to create the 'said' special revenue fund.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

9. The matter of amendments to the 2021 Permanent Appropriations Ordinance. (Standing Referral)

Referred By: Finance Director's Pileski and Farrell

Dir Farrell said there is one change, it's for \$25,000 for indigent driver and interlock monitor fund department for alcohol monitoring devices for DUI offences for muni court. This is for monitoring devices for individuals and vehicles.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance to authorize the 'said' appropriation changes.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Mr. Baird moved and second by Mr. Tollett to adjourn this evening's Finance Meeting at 7:55 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)