

The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a Meeting on
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2022 beginning at 6:38 P.M.

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Stewart, Tollett, Cerra, Davis, Absent: Schneider

CD PRESENT: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Lipian, Oswald, Absent: Schneider

Chair Stewart said Mr. Schneider notified the Clerk's office and stated that he would not be able to attend this evening's meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Williams, HR Dir Yousefi, Engineer McKillips, WWPC Superintendent Korzan, Police Chief Pelko

1. Approval of the Regular Finance Meeting Minutes ~ January 31ST, 2022.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mr. Cerra second 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

Director Brubaker said this is the standard procedure. The delinquent accounts are usually about 3 months worth of charges because they have to follow the process of notifying the property owner and giving them the opportunity to make arrangements. The account on this evening's list is an apartment complex and we are not able to turn that service off so the only option is to assess a lien for the charges.

Mr. Oswald asked what are our odds to receive payment?

Dir Brubaker said sometimes we get our money back. This complex has usually paid before we got to this point. We try to collect it before we send it to the County Auditor.

Law Dir Deery said these are attached to special assessments therefore they are like taxes and it's higher on the priority to get paid. This could get the attention more than our sternly worded letters.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend a resolution authorizing the 'said' delinquent utility accounts to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor's Office.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of Ballistic Vests for the Elyria Police Department.

Referred By: Police Chief Pelko [*This matter passed by Utilities Committee on 2/9*]

Chief Pelko said as they all know they wear bullet proof vests which protects them from firearms. They are coming up on the 5-years of the current purchase and the vests have a five-year warranty in shelf life. They are looking at Galls to get a point blank vest through NASPA which is similar to the State Bid Pricing. The current pricing of the vests are \$903 each for a vest with an interior carrier and \$1,070 for a vest with the external carrier. The external carrier allows officers to carry attachments on the vest instead of the belt which takes the strain off their backs. So, they would like to purchase 73 external carrier vests and 4 internal carrier vests. The total purchase would be \$81,722. They will apply for grants. There is a state grant that they've gotten in the past which will cover 75% of the cost up to \$40,000 which will cover 50 vests. And there is a federal grant which would cover 50% of the cost of the remaining 27 vests. The City would pay \$28,000 for the 77 vests and reimburse \$54,000 from the grants.

Chair Stewart asked where the remaining money from the City would come from?

Finance Dir Pileski said in the past they have taken our share out of the Police Levy Fund. He asked if we have to purchase all of them with the full amount and then we get reimbursed?

Chief Pelko said we would get reimbursed, but we won't have to purchase all of them at once. We would purchase what we need now. He's airing on the side of caution, he has 10 officers that could retire, so if they leave within this year, those would have to be replaced. We're budgeted to hire more officers to have a full staff of 87. Chief said he would only purchase what they need right now and he would get that number to Dir Pileski.

Dir Pileski asked if this is in their permanent appropriation request and that they can revisit that before it comes back to council.

Mr. Tollett asked if the vests will work with the clip-ons, where the body cameras will go?

Chief Pelko said yes, those will work with the body cameras.

Chief Pelko explained the difference of the vests. The one that's cheaper that you wear on the inside, it goes under the uniform, the other vests has a carrier that would go on the outside of the uniform shirt. It looks like the uniform, but on the bottom around the belly there's straps where you can put your magazines, pepper spray, flashlight, hazer and it takes the weight off. On the cheaper vest you've got to wear all the equipment around your belt which has proven to cause back problems. By putting the equipment on the vest and torso, it relieves some back pain and stress. They both have the same ballistic protection. Chief Pelko said, this should pass as emergency.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Cerra seconded to authorize the purchase of 'said' equipment for the Police Department thru State Purchasing or equivalent program.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of purchasing of a 2022 Semi-Tractor & Ford F-450 for the WWPC Plant.

Referred By: WWPC Superintendent Korzan *[This matter passed by Utilities Committee on 2/9]*

Supt. Korzan said they need permission to purchase the Mack semi-tractor to replace an older model that is causing high cost repair bills. Also the current 2011 F-350 pick-up that is out of service and they have the ability to pick up an F-450 relatively quickly. The lead time on the Mack semi-tractor may be 8 months to a year. They will be purchased through the Ford Fleet Government pricing plan and it will be purchased locally.

Finance Dir Pileski confirmed that monies have been appropriated in the temporary budget and he reminded Supt Korzan that they have to include that in the permanent appropriations also.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mr. Cerra seconded to authorize the purchase of 'said' vehicles for the WWPC Plant.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of a Wet Weather Program, Water Pollution Loan Fund App & Agreement.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips *[This matter passed by Utilities Committee on 2/9]*

Engineer McKillips said they're requesting authorization for the mayor to apply for a loan application through the Department of Environmental and Financial Services. Through the Ohio EPA for the East Side Relief Sewer, Phase 1D and 2 North project. It will be for approximately twenty million dollars. The project is part of the Wet Weather Program which is a list of projects that are mandated through the consent decree that the City is still negotiating with the DOJ and the US EPA and Ohio EPA. But they are moving forward with this projects. Phase 1D and 2 North are next on the list and they involve the sewer continuing on Poplar Street, being set extended down Harwood, to Dilworth to Gulf, to East Bridge and will terminate it temporarily near the RR Tracks at East Bridge until they get the next phase designed and applied for which will be another year or two.

Mr. Oswald asked why they are going down Dilworth and not further down Harwood?

Engineer McKillips said there's an outfall on Dilworth and onto Gulf Road.

The original concept was to have this relief sewer to be able to take flow from that outfall so we're not sending our diluted waste water to the river. The sewer is being designed by gravity.

It will be gravity from Eastern Heights to the Water Treatment Plant. They are looking at putting a structure at that intersection to see if they can bypass flow from the east side interceptor into the east side relief sewer if needed. The elevation in those two sewers are not enough where we can actually relieve the overflow directly. They looked at taking the sewer directly to Gulf Road on poplar instead of making the bends down Harwood and Dilworth. There was concern with the schools at the corner of Poplar and Gulf. They thought if they had the ability without causing any additional cost to the project by going to Harwood and Dilworth.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Cerra seconded to authorize an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to apply for and enter into the 'said' loan agreement.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of a Grant Application for the 'Safe Routes to School Program'.

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

[This matter passed by Utilities Committee on 2/9]

Engineer McKillips said Council endorsed the 'Active Transportation Plan' that was spearheaded by the Lorain County Health District. In conjunction with City staff they completed the plan and will start utilizing that plan to apply for grant funds. This is the first grant they are applying for. There will be 2 projects; 1.) Construction sidewalks along Middle Avenue near Colonial Oaks and Wood Street and where there are currently no sidewalks. 2.) Construction of sidewalks on the north side, on Rosealee and Randall and Hilliard by the new Northwood Campus. This will help align with some intersection improvements which will happen through OPWC projects at Hilliard & Rosealee. They are asking for \$400,000 which is the maximum amount. It's a zero percent match up to that amount. If the City is granted the funds they would be looking at construction around 2024-2025.

Engineer McKillips said anything over the \$400,000 would be 100% City cost.

Engineer McKillips said she has reached out to Mr. Ordado of ODOT and he has requested a project map and an engineer's estimate. That will determine his decision as to whether we can have other sidewalk areas spot checked and repaired. Engineer McKillips is hopeful they can get that in within the budget.

Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to authorize an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to submit an application and accept funds for the 'said' program.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of applying for and accepting a 2022 OEPA Recycle Grant for the purchase of a F-450 Truck, Chipper and Box Truck for Sanitation/Forestry Departments.

Referred By: Director Brubaker

[This matter passed by Utilities Committee on 2/9]

Director Brubaker said this is the same grant we applied for and received last year and it allowed us to replace some older equipment at the Sanitation / Forestry Department. We have the opportunity to apply for it again this year. The cost last year was \$115,000 and the City's portion was \$20,000. This year's cost is \$96,150 for the grant and City match will be \$24,038. The City's share of the money will come from Issue 6. The new F-450, new chipper and the box to go in the F-450 and will also be uses as a plow in the winter. We won't know if we receive this grant until sometime in May.

Dir. Brubaker said they are adding a truck and a box. And they are replacing the chipper. And we do have personnel that can be called in to utilize that equipment.

Dir Deery asked if they need emergency clause?

Dir Brubaker said yes due to grant application deadline. They will submit and find out in early May if get that.

Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered the 'said' grant for the purchase for the 'said' equipment.
MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of applying for and accepting a 2022 NOPEC NEC Grant for LED Lighting upgrades. Referred By: Director Brubaker *[This matter passed by Utilities Committee on 2/9]*

Dir Brubaker said this won't have to be submitted until later March. It's a \$98,000 NOPEC Grant that we're getting and they would like to use it for LED Lighting upgrades in the Downtown area. There is no match.

Chair Stewart asked what part of the downtown area this will include?

Dir Brubaker said it's a part of the TLCI Program that they're working on with Engineering throughout the downtown area, Broad Street mainly.

Mr. Oswald asked about one of the lights on Washington Ave. area that fell over, he asked if it will be fixed with these dollars?

Dir Brubaker said the pole Mr. Oswald is referring to was damaged during the fire last year. There are some lights in that area that they are considering as part of this project. The owner, Mr. Flanigan will also have lighting put in that area when for the parking lot.

Mr. Oswald if this lighting program will include light bulbs as well as fixtures?

Dir Brubaker said it will be LED lighting, including fixtures. Similar to what they did on Route 57 lights.

Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered the 'said' grant which will allow for LED Lighting upgrades.
MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

9. The matter of adopting the Updated and Revised Codified Ordinances.

Referred By: Law Director Breunig

Law Dir Deery said this is a housekeeping manner with the Law Dir's office and the Clerk's office to go through this process every several years to update the codified ordinances for purposes of making sure that what's published on line and also the published hard copies that are distributed throughout the City that they're updated and not just what's been passed by our City Council but also State Law as well. Such as if there are any changes to the Ohio Revised Code. Many of our criminal ordinances mirror that language at the state level. They are asking that council formally approve those matters and then they will be put into effect.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to authorize the Adoption of the 'said' changes and updates to the Codified Ordinances of the City.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

10. The matter of Budget Amendment for the Transfer of Funds. (Standing Referral)

Referred By: Finance Director's Pileski and Farrell

Finance Dir Pileski said the State Highway Fund is the fund that we purchase our road salt. We've gone thru a lot of salt this winter. Seven and a half percent of the gasoline tax that we receive from the state goes into the State Highway Fund. It's not enough to cover enough salt in a bad winter. Typically we subsidize the State Highway Fund with General Fund monies. Last year we transferred \$350,000 and he's asking again to transfer another \$350,000 from the General Fund to the State Highway Fund.

Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance to authorize the Finance Director to transfer the 'said' funds.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

11. The matter of Amendments to the 2022 Temporary Appropriations.

(Standing Referral) Referred By: Finance Director's Pileski and Farrell

Finance Dir Pileski said the changes involve what he just spoke of. In the General Fund, General Government Department, adding \$245,000 to the \$105,000 that was appropriated in the temporary to bring the total to \$350,000 and that's for the transfer to the State Highway Fund. And in the State Highway Fund, adding \$350,000 to operating & maintenance for the purchase of road salt.

Mr. Tollett moved and Mr. Cerra seconded to recommend an ordinance to amend the 'said' 2022 temporary appropriations.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Stewart announced that the Committee Meeting will go into Executive Session for personnel matters.

Mrs. Davis moved, second by Mr. Cerra to go into Executive Session at 7:09 P.M.

Chair Stewart took a roll call vote; Tollett~Aye, Davis~Aye, Cerra~Aye, Stewart~Aye

Motion Carried

Mrs. Davis moved, second by Mr. Tollett to come out of Executive Session at 7:25 P.M.

Chair Stewart took a roll call vote; Tollett~Aye, Davis~Aye, Cerra~Aye, Stewart~Aye

Motion Carried

12. The matter of the IAFF Contract. (Standing Referral)

Referred By: Director Brubaker

This matter was discussed in the Executive Session and the Committee voted on the matter after Executive Session ended and there is no recording of the vote. But everyone did vote to pass the matter.

Mr. Cerra moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to approve the IAFF Contract.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Mr. Tollett moved and second by Mr. Cerra to adjourn this evening's Finance Committee Meeting at 7:28 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Council Clerk Secretary

CMR/