

**The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a Meeting on  
MONDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2022 beginning at 6:48 P.M.**

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

**UTILITIES PRESENT:** Chair Mitchell, Davis, Oswald, Simmons

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Brubaker,  
Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Farrell, Engineer McKillips and J Schneider,  
Team Leader Jacob

**1. Approval of the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes ~ May 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2022.  
Mr. Cerra moved, second by Mr. Schneider to approve the 'said' meeting minutes.**

**2. The matter of Creating a New Capital Projects Fund entitled the 'Fuller Road  
Improvement Project Fund'. *[Standing Referral]***

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

Finance Dir Pileski said this will be used to account for the revenue and related expenses of the Ohio Public Works Commission Funds as well as the County Funds that are going to be involved.

Chair Stewart said this was discussed earlier and this is to appropriate the funds.

**Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to create the 'said' Capital Project Fund.**

**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**3. The matter of Creating a New Capital Projects Fund entitled the 'West Avenue  
(Barres Lane to 8<sup>th</sup> Street) Resurfacing Fund'. *[Standing Referral]***

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

Finance Dir Pileski said this fund will be used to account for the Ohio Public Works Commission Funds associated with the West Avenue resurfacing fund.

Chair Stewart said this was discussed earlier in Utilities and this is to appropriate the funds.

**Mr. Cerra moved and Mr. Schneider seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to create the 'said' Capital Project Fund.**

**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**4. The matter of Creating a New Capital Projects Fund entitled the '2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Cedar  
Street Resurfacing Fund'. *[Standing Referral]***

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

Finance Dir Pileski said this fund will be used to account for the Ohio Public Works Commission share of the 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Cedar St. resurfacing project.

Chair Stewart said this was discussed earlier in Utilities and this is to appropriate the funds for the project.

**Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to create the 'said' Capital Project Fund.**

**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**5. The matter of Creating a New Capital Projects Fund entitled the 'Hilliard Road Resurfacing Fund'. *[Standing Referral]***

**Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell**

Finance Dir Pileski said this fund will be used to account for the Ohio Public Works Commission share of the Hilliard Road resurfacing project.

Chair Stewart said this was discussed earlier in Utilities and this is to appropriate the funds for the project.

**Mr. Schneider moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to create the 'said' Capital Project Fund.**

**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**6. The matter of Creating a New Capital Projects Fund entitled the 'Oberlin-Elyria Road Resurfacing Fund'. *[Standing Referral]***

**Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell**

Finance Dir Pileski said this fund will be used to account for the Ohio Public Works Commission share of the Oberlin-Elyria Road resurfacing project.

Chair Stewart said this was discussed earlier in Utilities and this is to appropriate the funds for the project.

**Mr. Schneider moved and Mr. Cerra seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to create the 'said' Capital Project Fund.**

**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**7. The matter of Amendments to the 2022 Permanent Appropriations. *[Standing Referral]***

**Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell**

Finance Dir Pileski said there are 10 appropriation changes this evening.

1. Law Enforcement Trust; \$2435 to Capital Outlay to cover a PO that was carried over from 2021 into the temporary, but not into the permanent
2. Police Levy Fund; \$41,556 to Capital Outlay to replace a police vehicle that was totaled in an accident and the City has received insurance proceeds.
3. ARPA Fund; \$75,000 to Parks & Rec Salary & Wages, \$13,000 to Benefits & Pension, \$161,500 to Operation & Maintenance to appropriate revenue replacement in Parks & Rec
4. East Broad Street Widening; \$8,347,242 to Capital Outlay, Federal Grant share
5. Fuller Road Improvement; \$375,775 to Capital Outlay
6. Hilliard Road Resurfacing; \$272,700 to Capital Outlay, OPWC share of the project
7. ARPA ~ Negative Economic Impact, Impacted Industries Dept. \$50,000 to Operation & Maintenance for the proposed Ukrainian Refugee Assistance Program
8. 2<sup>nd</sup> St/Cedar St. Resurfacing; \$116,925 to Capital Outlay, OPWC share of the project
9. West Ave. Resurfacing; \$168,825 to Capital Outlay, OPWC share of the project
10. Oberlin-Elyria Rd Resurfacing; \$324,750 to Capital Outlay, OPWC share of the project

Chair Stewart thanked Dir Pileski and said that Mitch Fallis of Lorain City Council is here and asked if anyone had any questions?

Chair Stewart said Mr. Lipian has been in touch via text and per what the Finance Dir said that this is being considered to be appropriated for the use of those dollars for the Ukrainian matter.

Mitch Fallis of Lorain introduced himself and said he wanted to speak with the committee regarding his involvement in Lorain County for Ukraine. He said he found out recently that his grandfather was from Western Ukraine. City Councilman Lipian asked Mr. Fallis to speak to the committee since they both had relatives from The Ukraine. Mr. Lipian told Mr. Fallis about the City's proposed legislation. Refugees who end up in our community will need assistance and will probably end up staying in our communities. The city of Mariupol won't be rebuilt anytime soon. It's a good thing to help these folks get established in a new community especially here in Lorain County. The refugees will arrive under humanitarian parole, which means they won't have a work visa so the first six months they cannot seek employment that they had in Ukraine. There is only minimum paying jobs so that will really need help to get started.

Mr. Fallis said he studied the proposed program that Mr. Lipian presented to committee. He presented the same program to Lorain Mayor Bradley and Lorain is interested in pursuing something very similar. He thanked the committee for allowing this presentation.

Chair Stewart thanked Mr. Fallis and said there have been on-going meetings with the Law Director, Councilman Lipian, Finance Dir Pileski and Community Development. There are still concerns with regards to the ARPA Funds and the uses for them. It's still a work in progress.

Dir Deery said they met last week and sat down and had a lot of dialogue and did research looking at what other communities have tried to do on this matter. Obviously we don't have history to work with as far as ARPA funds. They are being cautious with these funds. The guidelines and requirements is rigid. If the money is appropriated or what it's proposed to be appropriated for is essentially employer assistance. The proposal is that this money would assist employers who have been negatively impacted by covid. ARPA money is to go to those who have been negatively impacted by covid. This proposal is to simultaneously assist employers in our community and also assist refugees. It's very complicated there are a lot of logistical hoops that they have to jump thru. They have looked at going out on a request for proposals to non-profits that could potentially handle this program for us under the directive that this would be an employer assistance program that would be linked up to the refugees which is what Mr. Lipian has brought forward. In order to use the ARPA money it has to be used to assist those employers and businesses that were negatively impacted by covid. Dir Scott will be crafting the criteria to go out for those proposals and they will be reviewed. Organizations and possibly other entities will respond and then the City will be able to enter into a sub-recipient agreement with them, which would be monitored by Community Development for facilitating the ARPA dollars in a manner that first and foremost honors those requirements and adhere to what we're trying to accomplish with this program.

What the committee is being asked of this evening, is to appropriate the money. If the money is appropriated and if the proposal doesn't move forward those monies could be re-appropriated to another ARPA Fund.

Chair Stewart said tonight is just to appropriate those funds to start the process. There is a lot more work that needs to be done and it's a challenge and there are a lot of open-ended questions in regards to how this will apply.

Law Dir Deery added that it is the recommendation of the group which met last week that it does make sense to go out for proposals to outside organizations who have specialized in this type of programming, matching employers to employees. There are local employers who have a great need for workers and these refugees will need for employment. It was determined to ask for the monies and then do the proposal to back up the work, which is why it's before the committee today.

Chair Stewart said Mr. Schneider is a co-sponsor and asked if he wanted to weigh in. He said that he didn't attend the meeting last week.

He asked what the deadline is for using the ARPA Funds.

Dir Pileski said those funds have to be spent by end of 2024 and if there is a contract for a project they can go to the end of 2026.

Mr. Tollett said that he cannot support this portion of the appropriations because recently the Federal Government passed a 40 Billion Ukrainian bill and they earmarked 10% of that to go to Ukrainian Refugees, the estimated number of Refugees is 100,000 in the next 12 months. That equates to \$40,000 per refugee. This also doesn't include any help through the Red Cross, Salvation Army or State economies. In looking at legislative consistency of how I've supported some of these programs in the past, he cannot support this, especially with it being earmarked specifically for Ukrainian refugees.

Chair Stewart said that he has concerns as well and he shares Mr. Tollett's sentiments and he would not be in favor of appropriating \$50,000 at this time. There's a lot of issues and concerns here within our own city. They are valiantly fighting over in Ukraine and they're resolved to continue to fight and we have our issues here.

Dir Pileski said that in the program they were going to say Refugees, not just Ukraine.

Law Dir Deery said that the way the program would be structured is the money would flow to employers to incentivize them to hire refugees and not limited to Ukrainian refugees.

Mrs. Davis asked if the employees would be local?

Law Dir Deery said it's still a work in progress but the requirement would be that they would be City of Elyria employers.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if the funds will be limited to refugees who will be living in Elyria?

Law Dir Deery said as it was proposed, work in progress, in order to use ARPA money, this needs to be an employer based program and it would be Elyria employers and possibly priority to Lorain County refugees who have settled here and preferable in Elyria, though refugees don't have permanent residence.

Chair Stewart asked if there were any other questions on these matters?

**Mr. Tollett moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the 'said' appropriation changes excluding Line Item #7 (ARPA Funds \$50,000 for Negative Economic Impact).**

**AYE (3) - Davis, Stewart, Tollett    NAY (2) - Cerra, Schneider  
MOTION MADE                              COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

Law Dir Deery asked Dir Pileski if he can provide an updated Exhibit based on this committee report?

Dir Pileski said yes, he will provide a new exhibit without line item #7.

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

*Respectfully submitted by,*

*Colleen Rosado,  
Council Clerk Secretary/Administrative Assistant*

*CMR/*