

The UTILITIES, Safety & ENVIRONMENT & FINANCE COMMITTEE held a Meeting on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 2022 beginning at 6:58 P.M.

UTILITIES: Chair Mitchell, Corbin, Oswald, Simmons

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Brubaker, Asst Dir Williams, Asst Dir Calvert, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Fin Dir Farrell, Engineer McKillips, WWPC Supt Korzan, CD Mngr Almabayyed, PW Supervisor Connor, WS Jacob, Police Chief Pelko

1. Approval of the Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes ~ August 10th, 2022.
Mr. Tollett moved, second by Mrs. Davis to approve the minutes as circulated.

2. The matter of amending Exhibit “C” of the Rural Lorain County Water Authority Agreement to reflect the correct 2022 & 2023 deferred rate which provides water services in the Chestnut Commons Commerce Park Area.

Referred By: PW Supervisor Deborah Conner

Supervisor Connor explained to the committee that an agreement exist with Rural Lorain County water Authority for a fixed rate for water. The agreement will expire in 2024, the possibility of revising the rate will be reviewed at that time.

Utilities- Ms. Davis moved, Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend an ordinance amending exhibit “c” of the Rural Lorain County Water Authority agreement to reflect the correct 2022 and 2023 deferred rate which provides water services in the Chestnut Commons Commerce Park area.

Finance- moved by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mrs. Simmons

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter to replace the original agreement with RLCWA dated 02/25/2019 which is to expire 02/25/2023.

Referred By: PW Supervisor Deborah Conner

Supervisor Conner explained to committee that in the previous contract, the City of Elyria was being charged \$2.35 per meter reading. The new rate would be \$1.00 per meter reading.

Mr. Oswald moved, Mrs. Simmons seconded the recommendation to consider an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a new meter reading agreement with Rural Lorain County Water Authority.

Finance- moved by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Cerra

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to apply for, and accept if awarded, a \$50,000 grant through “H2Ohio”.

Referred By: Water Team Lead Samuel Jacob

Water Team Lead Jacob explained to committee that this is a duplication of a grant that was previously awarded for \$50,000. The grant will provide another \$50,000 award to be used specifically for identifying lead water service lines. Chair Stewart expressed his

appreciation for the program.

Mr. Oswald moved, Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept if offered consider the matter of an H2Ohio grant program round two, for identification, inventory and mapping of lead service lines.

Finance-moved by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mr. Schneider

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise and award a contract for the resurfacing of Hilliard Rd..

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer McKillips explained to committee that this matter was previously brought before committee. The current request is for additional funding due to increased cost in labor and materials. The request is for an additional \$43,581.00. Mr. Oswald inquired where the additional monies will come from. Engineer McKillips explained, the additional monies will come from a muni motor fund.

Ms. Davis moved, Mrs. Simmons seconded to recommend the consideration of the matter of the Hilliard Road resurfacing project and authorizing the Mayor to amend monies for the resurfacing project.

Finance- Mr. Schneider moved, Tollett seconded

6. The matter of a appropriating monies for the purchase of sanitary sewer collection system two(2) Kohler diesel emergency power backup generators for the Windbrook Drive and Abbe Road South lift stations.

Referred By: WWPC Superintendent Korzan

Superintendent Korzan explained that since the time of submitting his referral, he received a grant that covers the cost of his equipment. Monies are appropriated.

Moved by Mr. Oswald, seconded by Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to purchase two power generators for the Windbrook Drive and Abbe Rd South Lift Stations for the WWPCP through the state purchase program or equivalent.

Finance- Mr. Cerra moved, Schneider seconded

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of appropriating monies to purchase the sanitary sewer collection system a replacement control system for the West 8th Street lift station.

Referred By: WWPC Superintendent Korzan

Superintendent Korzan explained that monies are appropriated.

Moved by Mr. Oswald, seconded by Mrs. Simmons to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the West 8th Street Lift Station for the Wastewater Pollution Control Plant, through the State purchasing program or equivalent, and declaring an emergency.

Finance- Moved by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mr. Schneider

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Vice Chair suggested a five minute break: 7:14 P.M.

Meeting resumed at 7:19 P.M.

8. The matter of Oakwood Schools emergency repairs.

Referred By: Mayor Whitfield

ASSD Williams provided an update to committee in the absence of Mayor Whitfield. Mr. Williams shared with committee that the three options were provided to the committee, plan a,b and c, in hopes that one of the options would be selected. Mr. Williams shared that his understanding was plan b may offer some consideration and thought as the better offer of the three, in efficiency and opportunity. Mr. Williams explained that plan b might offer savings regarding some of the areas that were of concern, the city of Elyria's terms of exposure and obligation and facility renovations. The additional details that would still need to be negotiated would be leasing and the contract with Save Our Children through legal. Council member Tollett responded with a clarifying statement, that there is not, nor has there ever been a question about Oakwood School being the property of the city of Elyria and not of Elyria City Schools and in need of attention. "There has never been a question of that". Mr. Tollett shared at the beginning of 2022 an idea of a senior center and partnership with Save Our Children was presented by Mayor Whitfield to city council. Specific details regarding, real costs, lease rates and continuing costs were requested. Mr. Tollett states city council was chastised for requesting detailed items. Information regarding Oakwood school was received in August 2022, which did not include the engineer's report. The final report was received the week of September 2, 2022 after submitting a public records request. The information in the report reflected in an effort for Oakwood to be made functional, the cost would be 5.3 million dollars in repairs. Mr. Tollett's proposal for the \$350,000.00 grant to bulldoze the existing Oakwood School and expand West Park. He shared that his concern with the grant, is that council has yet to see the details of the grant, Mr. Tollett stated that he is hopeful the grant can be used in that manner. The request made is to earmark one million dollars of ARPA funds for a senior's annex at West Park. Mr. Tollett shared that with keeping the children and the longstanding program of Save Our Children in mind, he reached out to Rapha Academy. Rapha Academy purchased Northwood school from the city of Elyria, they have made all necessary renovations and passed all city ordinances and building requirements to operate. Rapha would entertain a lease partnership with Save Our Children. Mr. Williams responded that he was not in agreement with Mr. Tollett's response. He would prefer that they have a conversation, not at the council meeting. Mr. Williams stated that the intentions could be misinterpreted and the overall representation of feedback for the presentations that have been provided regarding Oakwood. He believes that Mr. Tollett's response was overstated. Mr. Williams apologized that specific numbers and details were not received. Mr. Williams requested that the matter of Oakwood school repairs be tabled. Ms. Mitchell expressed that she had stated on numerous occasions that she would be in support of this project, if it made sense. However the architect report was very concerning. That children and senior citizens would be placed in a building, not deemed safe. President Stewart stated that he believes providing the report to the engineer placed her in an awkward position, in addition that information should be shared with council members. Ms. Davis expressed that Oakwood school was her project. The senior center, would not take up the entire facility. However, after review of the report, her concern of not having air conditioning, etc., she expressed she was not happy with the thought of placing children and senior in that type of predicament. Mr. Oswald agreed with the other council member's regarding the report status of items that could be updated, such as electrical, boiler, etc. M. Oswald expressed from his perspective, if you avoid repairing the items to avoid the cost to move into the building, what happens when they actually fail after you are in the building. When you have to come back to council later and express that indeed the boiler or air conditioner is bad. Ms. Mitchell asked if the Chief Building Official, Mr. Farkas has looked at the building.

Bob Yost, 260 South Logan, Elyria- Mr. Yost expressed the difference of the condition of a building when it unoccupied. Mr. Yost stated there are other options to provide air conditioning

solutions that would not require central air conditioning. He stated the building does not need to be suppressed per code either. He shared that Save Our Children has agreed to maintain their portion of the building and utilities. Mr. Yost stated the future of Elyria is the children of Save Our Children, not the seniors. He suggest that the building be torn own. He doesn't believe that the city of Elyria needs to spend 5.2 million, he could get the work done for far less. He stated that he had quotes that came in well under those amounts. Ms. Mitchell shared the original intent of Oakwood school is that always was going to be a senior center. She would like to know where the ongoing maintenance is coming from. Mr. Tollett asked that contact be made with Rapha Academy. Mr. Cerra would like to table the matter, Mr. Corbin agreed.

Moved by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Corbin to not move forward with Oakwood repairs at the anticipated cost of \$5.2 million dollars.

Finance- Moved by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Tollett

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Vice Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Schneider moved and seconded by Mrs. Davis to adjourn this evening's Finance Committee Meeting at 8:08 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

RLP/