

**The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a Meeting on  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 beginning at 7:50 P.M.**

**CD PRESENT:** Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Schneider, Lipian and Oswald

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

**OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Simmons

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Whitfield, Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Brubaker, Asst Dir Calvert, Fin Dir Pileski, Asst Fin Dir Farrell, Engineer McKillips, HR Dir Yousefi, WWPC Supt Korzan, CD Manager Almabayyed, CD Director Scott, Lise Day, Public Information Officer Cloud, Chief Pronesti, Chief Pelko, Parks Dir Reardon

**1. Approval of the Finance Meeting Minutes ~ October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mr. Schneider to approve the October 11<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.**

**2. The matter of increasing pay rates of certain Building Department positions.**

Referred By: Human Resource Director Yousefi

***[Discussion with possible action]***

HR Dir Yousefi said this is to raise the pay rates for the plumbing and electrical inspector building positions in the Building Department. They would like to move them from one salary rate to a higher salary rate with a different title. The current pay range is low for the market and these are positions that are very difficult to recruit for. They need to retain the two employees that they have. The increase for two years will be less than \$8,000.

Chair Stewart asked if there had been a conversation with the Finance Dir about these?

Dir Brubaker added, that the Building Dept has run into a problem with those two primary positions that the State of Ohio requires the Building Dept to have. They cannot operate the Building Dept without those two positions. They have 2 qualified individuals in that department who have continued their education to get additional certificates that truly benefit the City. Such as Plans Examiner for Electrical. These individuals are out at every project, whether it's commercial or residential and does all the inspections on electrical safety. They also handle property maintenance complaints that come in that fall within the realm of plumbing and electrical. We've found that because these positions are highly sought after, not just for our community but other departments in Ohio, that our employees are being recruited away. We can't compete with every city, however, our pay-scales for those positions are much lower than any of our comparable cities. They would rather stay here, our technology is there, the work level is there. They spoke to the union president and the City's Labor attorney and it would just be effective to these two positions in the Building Dept. If we were to lose one or both of these individuals and to try to recruit others that had any experience, it would be darn near impossible. If we were to contract those positions out to a company like Safe-Built, the cost could be as much as \$105 per hour. It's Dir Brubaker's recommendation to bring this to make these changes in these pay scales.

Mr. Tollett said he supports this, are we eliminating the lower level pay range or changing the step?

Dir Brubaker said there are levels C, B & A and they start at C and go up each year. All three of those levels on both of those would be the same but completely different numbers. The job title will be the same. They will mirror another pay-scale within the City, which mirrors what other cities are paying these positions.

Law Dir Deery said the union has no issues and you've spoken with our Labor Attorney, so it doesn't sound like there will be any issues as far as any 'me too' clauses triggered?

Dir Brubaker said that is correct and the union is on board with this change. There are other positions within the City that need to be looked at, but what I've told them they will be looked at during the next negotiations.

Dir Deery said the idea that if these proposed increased go through and these would still get the 3 percent next year under the contract and then the idea the City would be in good shape with competing other communities.

Finance Dir Pileski said the ordinance itself would be sufficient.

Mr. Oswald said the Building Department has a good team and these employees do great work and they are getting head hunted. He's 100% for this. There's a limit to how much we can afford to pay but they're getting paid under for the knowledge and education they have.

Dir Brubaker said the effective date will be after it passes Council and gets into the payroll system, probably the 1<sup>st</sup> pay in December. It will be factored into next years budget.

**Mr. Cerra moved and Mr. Schneider seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the 'said' changes to the Building Dept. Positions.**

**MOTION MADE**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

### **3. The matter of Renewing the Horizon Educational Lease Agreement for the use of East Recreation Center.**

Referred By: Parks & Rec Director Reardon

Dir Reardon said Horizon wasn't able to be in attendance tonight. Dir Reardon said this is a renewal of their agreement to use East Rec Center for their after school program. So, they're asking for this renewal as well as a reduced monthly payment. Currently they've been paying \$2,778 per month rent and they are asking for it to be reduced to \$1,000. The reason they're asking that is because they are close to the end of their grant and they are receiving less money and their costs are going up so they are asking for that reduction. This was approved through at the most recent Parks Board meeting. Horizons said when their grant renewal comes back, they would be willing to go back to the previous costs.

Chair Stewart asked if they would have to write a new lease since it will change from \$2,775 to \$1,000?

Dir Reardon said it's time for them to have a new lease anyway. They are currently in month to month so this will coincide with the timing of a new lease.

**Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing to 'said' lease agreement.**

**MOTION MADE**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

### **4. The matter of an Ohio Security Grant (OSG) thru the Dept. Of Public Safety and Ohio Emergency Management Agency for enhanced Security at The Pumping Plant and Remote Towers and Pump Stations. (This matter will also go to Utilities Committee).**

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Mr. Jacob was not in attendance and Dir Brubaker discussed this matter. Dir Brubaker said this is a grant that they are applying for to make physical security improvements at the water plant as well as outside towers and pump stations. This will allow proximity locks which is similar that we now have here at City Hall. This will be to expend up to \$100,000 and it is not a match. They will submit for this grant by Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

It will also allow us to install security cameras at the plant as well as the pump stations and towers. They are working with the EPD and IT Departments on these projects. This will also help us to be in compliance with EPA regulations.

**Mr. Cerra moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for the 'said' grant with no City match.**  
**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**6. The matter of the reviewing ARPA Funding allocations and funds remaining with the City Administration and Finance offices.**

Referred By: Council President Stewart

***[Discussion with possible action]***

Schneider and Tollett to get it on the floor.

Chair Stewart said when he made this request at the last council meeting, they want to get a standing of the ARPA Funds, of what we received, what we've spent and what we've appropriated, so we can get a handle of where we're at toward the end of this year and moving into 2023. So we have a better view of what is facing the City.

The Finance Dept. had a summary of costs and numbers on the overhead screen and monitors.

Mr. Tollett said that the article in the paper was misleading showing 18.9 million in ARPA funding, that's not accurate. What we see is what is already been encumbered by the City and used. Then it will show what is remaining available to us. He wanted to bring this to the attention.

Dir Pileski said he prepared this in July and had recently updated it. Across the top it shows current programs that have been created. The first line is the amount expended, second line is encumbrances which are commitments to pay open purchase orders, the third line is current appropriations available. For example, under the NEI qualified census tract, it shows 1 million and current appropriation available, nothing has been spent or encumbered, so it's still at 1 million. So, we've received 18 million and seven hundred eighty thousand eight hundred twelve dollars \$18,780,812 in two installments, 2021 and 2022. Total expenditures, thus far are \$5,841,101.04. Total encumbrances as of today are \$620,279.54. Current appropriation that's available is \$3,485,998.42. Total left to appropriate is \$8,833,433.

Mayor said as mentioned we got \$18.6 million dollars of ARPA monies last year. The administration went thru a process of community engagement surveying how folks wanted to see those funds spent and those results were shared with council. Last year they proposed the following line items to be allocated; \$6 million to revenue loss, due to the loss from Bendix and other covid impacts, \$1 million to go into small businesses to help them recover. So, far we've issued \$725,000 of that million, \$1 million in the non-profits that are providing essential services to our City, we've encumbered \$240,000 for that. We recommended \$1 million going into Sanitation Fund to keep rates down, \$900,000 in Capital Expense Expenditures and \$1.5 million to go into Oakwood Community Center. What's on the screen is what was allocated from that conversation and there is still a lot to be determined. In terms of the Community Development funding was for projects such as the Home Beautification Program as well as Downtown redevelopment efforts.

Overall, he wanted that money to be set aside to engage our community and where they wanted to see the money go and what changes do they want to see as well as being responsive to the needs that we see. \$1 million dollars was allocated to the Qualified Census Tract Program. We'll be discussing how we can put some money in start up businesses in the qualified census tract as well as assist people with real estate development. The \$1 million that was set aside for essential services, we're going to ask to reallocate \$500,000 of that for non-profit Capital needs. Overall he wants to make sure it's clear, is based on ARPA regulations and based on the resources we have, his recommendation is that we don't need to rush, but we should be responsive and recognize this is a once in a generation opportunity to do something different. We shouldn't keep doing what we've been doing before. It's an opportunity to do something special and different and it should be determined in partnership with our community.

Chair Stewart said this ARPA dollars was as a result of covid and we had the CARES Act and we've used some of those policies to move this along. What we have to realize is that Bendix is gone.

The funds have to be encumbered by end of 2024 and spent by end of 2026.

Finance Dir Pileski said payroll items don't require encumbrances would have to be spent by the end of 2024. Projects that we encumbered will have to the end of 2024 to be encumbered and those projects have to the end of 2026 to pay for those projects.

Mr. Tollett spoke without turning his microphone therefore there is no transcription of that.

Mr. Farrell said year to date in small business, which would entail the balance of what we have initially spent which was \$124,402 in 2021 and so far this year, \$601,364. That's the total of \$725,768 for the small business programs. We're currently using the revenue replacement, as the Mayor mentioned to cover expenses that we lost revenue during the pandemic. Example, under Muni Court, it was for message boards and items they needed to provide for covid distancing. Their allotment is nearly spent, they have about \$7,000 left. They allocated \$2 million for the Fire Dept and that was for hiring 12 new firefighters. The majority is payroll and also normal expenses for new hires. Sanitation has \$1 million appropriated, which is all in payroll. That money will eventually be completely spent. \$2 million was allocated for the Police Dept. and transferred payroll out of the General Fund into ARPA Fund and that money is gone for 2022. Parks & Rec has \$88,500 of that \$250,000 is in payroll balance is for operating expenses. Street Dept had \$225,000, they budgeted \$225,000, there is encumbrances for \$225,000 and that is for a plow truck and necessary equipment. The \$500,000 in miscellaneous hasn't been spent or encumbered.

Dir Pileski said he had a discussion with the Mayor today and he'll go back thru and look at miscellaneous expenses that incurred in the General Fund and maybe move into the ARPA Fund that were paid out of the General Fund.

The Mayor said the purpose of that fund is to offset revenue loss and strengthen the General Fund. And there is a miscellaneous line item in the current general fund.

Dir Pileski said that some could be Professional services, Operating expenses for various General Fund Departments, the plan is to get to the \$500,000.

Dir Deery asked if the City will need to go thru an amendment process as far as reporting if we were to do that?

Fin Dir Pileski said no, but we would have to report the actual report which is actually due next week.

Chair Stewart asked if the criteria for the miscellaneous is different, because they were trying to mold it after the American Cares Act, some of the policies that were there in place and it's evolved more to itself. Maybe we should move forward with some of these items that should be brought before the EEDC Committee or Council or Finance Committee just to make sure there's an understanding of each line item that's being spent. There is a governing line there that we're talking about, even though there is significant dollars, they should bring that before committee so that there's an oversight on that.

Mr. Tollett said that he would make a motion that all future spending has to come through Finance Committee before funds are allocated or transferred.

Mayor said that there is a couple of things, one, he understands that, but they can't pass an ordinance that violates the law and our charter. Part of the fishing that's happening, that the City doesn't have the time or energy for because they need to be focused on the progress of the City. The miscellaneous general government revenue replacement, how much has been spent of that funding, so far?? Zero. So to pay this fear doom thing is a waste of time. This will help us with our revenue replacement and strengthen out general fund which gives us the resources to decide what do we want to do as a City? If you look at current expenditures that we've had, through the ARPA Fund, there's been no Mayor driven thing, it's been committee driven, staff driven and we've gotten the work done. He stood before everyone last year at this time because it felt like he didn't know if this season of the year where things get weird but playing these political games is not helping our city. We saw that with Oakwood, someone got up and said he was hiding something. It was five million dollars and there are professionals telling you that it was lower.....

Mr. Tollett ... 'point of order'. Numerous speaking at same time... not able to transcribe.

Chair Stewart said the reason he wanted to have this discussion for these funds is because of where we're at and where we're going. It's essential to know how this money has been spent and where the future money is to be spent. The first thing he sees is initial spending. He thinks that be looking at it for revenue replacement we would want to almost match what we have for Police & Fire and put it into the 2023 Budget.

Mayor said there is a limitation of what we can do annually for revenue replacement. We believe that technically all of the ARPA money can be used for revenue replacement, but, what that does is puts those monies into the General Fund that we need to make a decision on how we want to spend it doesn't escape the need to decide, this is a one-time opportunity, how do we want to spend it. So now, we're looking at the guidance that ARPA gives us and also being respectful of the intent of the law which was passed not only to respond to covid - 19 but to provide resources to make meaningful transformational investments in our community. That's why it's important to hear from the residents to hear what they want to see happen. We do have the liberty and options.

Mr. Tollett asked Dir Farrell to scroll down to the expenditures of the ARPA Funds that ran thru the administration and not the Council Committee.

Mayor Whitfield said some of these went thru The Community Development Office. What they did is they mimicked what they did thru the CARES Act, which was thru Community Development, to issue those funds out to the community. They also did that with the CARES ACT CDBG Funds.

With the CARES Act funds, they relied on the professional staff and their opinion on who and what should be funded and making sure it's responsive to the Community needs and they issued grants to non-profits. This process had a December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline where non-profits apply for funding for the ARPA funds to provide essential services in partnership with CD. He wasn't part of the approval committee.

He said Lise Day could speak about that process.

Ms. Day said last December not-for-profit agencies put in requests for funding. Anything \$50,000 or under could be managed internally and anything over \$50,000 would go to Council, which is the general rubric of the existing policies for ARPA Essential Services. To date, \$365,000 was awarded and now they're sending their first invoices in and spending down apx 10% of that. The awards were not made until July of this year. The process that got them to this point, they were reviewed for their content, eligibility, and that got everyone where they needed to be. Then they had a desk top review to make sure everything was complete and addressed an ARPA need. Then those who met requirements were asked to submit their board of directors rosters, their audits, etc. most files are pretty thick. From there the application packets went to a review panel, Dir McKillips, Dir Reardon and Renee Robinson from the Elyria Community Development Corporation. That was the process who would be awarded. There was a scoring sheet and the scores were added up. Most of these charities do this on a regular basis. Many are agencies that we already fund with CDBG, some were CARES Act recipients.

The Mayor said the point being that there was an internal committee that reviewed these and made the recommendations on funding. He said he was involved in CARES Act funds and he was part of their organizing of where to spend those funds, for instance one thing that came up at that time was child care and they provided grant funds to those child care agencies to help the residents with child care. He's not involved with the ARPA, though he would like to be involved. There are things we should be responsive to like the violence we see in the City. We can't afford to just see who applies, he would like to be actively out recruiting those non-profits to say hey, we have resources to provide to our residents, but that's not the process now, it's folks apply, the committee reviews them and he can encourage non-profits to apply, as opposed to last time he had more involvement.

Dir Deery said to be fair, she will state that there were discussions and her office did bring to the administration's attention that they did have some concerns with the process and the fact that the reviewing committee did answer to the Mayor's office and they thought that there was insufficient insulation because all of the members up until recently, within the last several months of the addition of the Community Partnership community member, that they all ultimately answered to the Mayor. She's not saying that anything was done improperly, but the appearance of impropriety and that perception can create bigger issues. Her office had several back & forth, even as far back as January. For instance on the Neighborhood Alliance problem. There is something to be said about having this conversation and she also wants to clarify that there is nothing in the Charter that says that Council can't appropriate money, whether is ARPA money or other money. The Charter does say amounts under \$50,000 of contracts do not have to go to Council. She agrees, she doesn't think it's necessarily efficient or in the best interest of our residents or the City as a whole to have every single application come to this committee or to Council as a whole.

If Council were to pass something that says they want to have more knowledge or to say they want to take a look at every single expenditure. She's not advocating that and it doesn't go against the Charter.

The Mayor said that allocating funds and things that we know are in the Charter are things that he's against. What he thinks is important is when the CARES Act Funding came, we had a clean audit and the CD Director can speak to that. We had no issues, we were able to be responsive. For instance, the senior care giver issue, we would have to go thru 3 council meetings and extra hoops and loops while people are suffering. That's what Council has the ability to govern and say, here's how we want things to be run. His focus is on the big picture. He's not going to play the petty games, no one has the time for that. He just wants to figure out how we want to make a difference in this community. Council has access to the information just like he does, because it's available every day. It really comes down to what do we want to do?

Mr. Tollett said even expenditures like CDBG was presented to everyone so we have an understanding. These are all worthy things and it's his opinion that we should have been informed on hundreds of thousands of spending that came thru the office without their knowledge.

The second part is that a study for five million dollars, number one to clarify, the Mayor commissioned that study and it was never shown to Council. It was something that the Mayor signed for and asked for and paid for out of City funds, regarding Oakwood. He wants the truth and clarity on that for the record.

Third part is there is \$635,000 in essential services in our budget that has been appropriated but not spent yet. He will request that those funds run through full City Council so all members can make a decision on this. It's some, it's a very worthy cause, it's great job. The balance of that \$635,000 will bring a couple of things in listening to what the residents asked for. He will bring an additional motion of the remaining funds which are at about 9.4 million. He will ask that 4 million go back into Police & Fire, which the residents wanted to keep their departments fully staffed & fully funded for the year 2023. He will ask for 1.5 million for the Sanitation Dept to be used for 3 new Sanitation trucks. By using ARPA funds to do that we can hold sanitation rates for the next few years. We need those 3 new trucks. He's also going to ask for 1 million dollars for an annex for West Park, because the citizens wanted a Senior Center and it would be a senior center only annex at West Park onto the gymnasium and that will leave 2 million nine hundred thirty five thousand dollars for us to use and encumber before the end of 2024. It may be additional programming, what that does is it brings all the money in front of all City Council for them to make the decision.

Dir Pileski said the Neighborhood Alliance kitchen was discussed earlier and his thought is to move \$150,000 out of the \$635,000 into a new program entitled 'Negative Economic Impact, Essential Services - Capital' because everyone was in agreement with doing that kitchen.

Mr. Tollett said he's using his calculator, that would.....

Point of order by Mr. Lipian, he asked if Council members are allowed to text during meetings?

Law Dir Deery said that would be in violation of the 'Open Meetings Laws' to text with fellow council members and collaborating and discussing, it would be ill-advisable for anyone to be texting anyone else. It could potentially be a public record.

Mr. Tollett said back to the math, it comes down to \$2,785,000 for us to encumber before the end of 2024, with that plan.

Mayor Whitfield said he didn't want to respond to Councilman Tollett because of his opinion there is a whole other agenda. He doesn't mind council changing the program to give council more control, ultimately what he cares about is let's take advantage of this once in a generation opportunity to do something significant. We just got the largest grant for the Police Dept, 2.7 million dollars and now we're hearing a request of an additional amount. We never requested that, the police has been strengthened with a levy, general fund, ARPA fund, we know we need a fire station, we need other things and increase pay but at the end of the day, there's a whole city to run. There are complex issues that the city is dealing with and he wants the council members to speak up as to what they're hearing the residents want, what do they want to see happen for their city as opposed to just allowing our conversation to be hijacked by politics. It's hurting us. The last commentary that happened with the last history...

Point of Order... grandstanding...

Chair Stewart said let's take a step back now, because we're getting into the politicking going back and forth and that's not what we need to do. We're trying to make sure that we understand how much money we have, what we've spent and a path moving forward. We need to work together and come up with a plan that's beneficial for the citizens of the City of Elyria. There are a lot of documents to overcome and review and capture and he thinks this council is trying to get a better grasp of what's been actually spent.

Mayor Whitfield asked Finance Dir Farrell to scroll back up to the top of the screen, everyone can see what's been spent, it's not difficult. We have at least 8 million dollars where you can make comments and ideas of how you want to see that money spent. There are certain funds that have been allocated that may not be spent. For instance, small business, we allocated 1 million dollars but we only spent 7.25 so there is money left there. He wants to push the conversation forward of what do other people want to see happen. We've got great community organizations that have ideas we've got residents that have ideas and we haven't even entertained that. He's trying to engage his committee members and Council members to bring them out. Councilman Oswald's idea has now come to fruition, that's good council work. Grandstanding is not helpful.

Mr. Tollett said two million nine hundred thousand would be available for us to use for all these other programs.

Mrs. Davis asked if we've used one million dollars to help the citizens keep their water bills down, because seniors don't use the water they're charged for, her question is how long will that million dollars carry, will it go into 2023?

Mayor Whitfield said if she's referring to the million dollars here, it hasn't been spent for essential services, only \$240,000 of it has been spent or allocated and Salvation Army have gotten less than \$50,000. So there's not a lot of money that they've gotten for the rate stuff. What they did with sanitation is they requested 1 million dollars to keep that rate from going up. In terms with helping with financial assistance with residents....

Mrs. Davis is asking that the million dollars that was set aside to keep the rates down, how long will that last?

Mayor Whitfield said they could run modeling on that to see how long it would last.

Point of order..... whispering in a meeting...



Mrs. Davis said that she noticed that Salvation Army got CDBG money and then they also get money from ARPA and also from the Federal Government... why are we giving them so much money? Who are they helping.

CD Dir Scott said the Salvation Army has applied for all of these funding sources They did receive funding for emergency services which allows them to assist people with rent, utilities; water and electric and vouchers. The program is set up with regulations in place. Assistance cannot be provided for over 3 months for water bills and electric. They make sure there is no duplication of benefit. Over the past years there has been a greater need and they have been good stewards of the money and they have been expending all of the funds.

The Mayor asked if Council would like Salvation Army to come to a meeting and present the process and what they do.

Mr. Lipian asked if council is allowed to whisper during public meetings, again he is asking go get clarification of the rules?

Dir Deery said if he is asking if a member of council who is my legal client may ask something off the record, yes, that would not be a violation of the rules but would be a part of attorney-client privilege.

Mr. Oswald asked about the Central Maintenance Garage?

Mayor Whitfield said Dir Brubaker has been on that. As we know right now to build new, we're looking at a 30 - 40 percent increase in cost. We looked at using our bonding capacity which Finance Dir can speak to. We were in the middle of negotiations with Bendix about donating their property to the City for us to convert that and after some of the antics, there were folks from Bendix in the audience and that hurt the negotiations, but we're hoping we can rebuild those. We are exploring building new and renovating an existing space.

Chair Stewart said this meeting is not being productive. It's nothing but a bunch of accusations going back and forth.

Mayor Whitfield said he can ask his council people what do they want to see the money spent on.....

Chair Stewart said that's enough.... the intent of this meeting was to kind of go through what was received and what has been spent.... We've seen in on the screen and now we're going to create another plan and we'll come back and review it. It get's old hearing the Mayor say this council is hindering progression.

Mayor clarified... the community's progression. Folks have questions and ideas of how they want to see the money used. He wants to hear all ideas.

Mrs. Simmons said she thinks some of the money should be used for senior transportation which we have a lack of.

Chair Stewart said they will look into that, if it's an option as part of the essential services. He said we should take a step back and revisit this conversation at the next committee meeting, November 14<sup>th</sup> and have dialog then and interaction with the administration with regards to certain thoughts of what we feel this remaining dollars should and can go for. At this time we'll go into the next item on the agenda which is the appropriation changes.

## **5. The matter of Amendments to the 2022 Permanent Appropriations.**

*[Standing Referral]*

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

Dir Pileski said that two have already been presented this evening, one in the Block Grant Fund, Public Service Dept., adding \$22,900 to salary & wages and \$2010 to benefits & pension to appropriate grant monies to get that dept to the end of the year. Housing Code & Enforcement in the Building Dept., moving \$800,000 from operating & maintenance to salary & wages to make sure they get to the end of the year. Next, as just discussed, the kitchen for Neighborhood Alliance, we would move \$150,000 from negative economic, essential services operating and maintenance to a new created department entitled negative economic impact essential services - Capital and adding \$150,000 to that Capital. (Moving \$150,000 to one essential services to the Capital Improvement Essential Services).

Dir Farrell said there was an omission on this exhibit that was put forth. The \$30,000 combined in salary & wages & benefits is actually a transfer from operating & maintenance which was inadvertently left off of the exhibit under Block Grant Service operating & maintenance, it will be reduced by \$25,000. The operating & maintenance will be reduced by \$25,000. New exhibits will be forthcoming. Motion concurs by Mrs. Davis and Mr. Schneider.

**Mrs. Davis moved and Mr. Schneider seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing to 'said' appropriation changes.**

**MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

Mayor Whitfield said he has no desire to bicker with council. His desire is to work alongside of everyone and move the City forward. We've put in time & effort as a staff and they try to bring things forward and he's hoping we can rise above. People are watching and want to see everyone function as a city. He asks to please put the politicks aside so we can move the city forward. He does appreciate the dialogs and wishes we can get past that and work together. He wants to get things done and worked out.

Mr. Tollett agrees with the Mayor and what he asked for tonight is clarity so all council members are aware of what we're spending money on which to this point we haven't had so far.

**Chair Stewart asked for a motion to adjourn.**

**Mr. Cerra moved and second by Mrs. Davis to adjourn this evening's Finance Committee Meeting at 9:00 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Respectfully submitted by,*

*Colleen Rosado, Council Clerk Secretary/Administrative Assistant*

*CMR/*