

THE FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, May 22nd, 2023 beginning at 7:10 P.M.

CD MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Oswald, Schneider, Lipian
FINANCE MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Stewart, Tollett, Cerra, Davis, Schneider
OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Corbin and Simmons

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Director Deery, Mayor Whitfield, Safety Service Dir Lundy, Asst. Dir Williams, Finance Dir Pileski and Farrell, Building Official Farkas, Asst Dir Calvert, Water Dist. Supt. Rothgery, CD Dir Scott, CD Manager Almobayyed, Parks Dir Reardon, WWPC Supt Korzan

1. Approval of the Finance Meeting Minutes from April 24th, 2023.

Mr. Cerra moved, second by Mrs. Davis to approve the said meeting minutes.

2. The matter of a Moral Claim submitted by Freddie Springfield for water damage at 114 Middle Ave.

Referred By: Safety Service Dir Lundy
Safety Dir Lundy began by saying this is the process when someone wishes to file a moral Claim. This incident took place in February at 114 Middle Ave. Ms. Springfield is in Attendance to explain what happened and Mr. Rothgery of Water Distribution is here to give The City's account of what happened.

Freddie Springfield of 334 Rutgers Ct., Elyria is here to tell her side of the story. Ms. Springfield owns the property at 114 Middle Ave. On February 1st, she said she went to her office that she is currently having remodeled and repaired. She was there with an employee from the City and they heard water running in the basement and there was a leak. She filed a claim with the City and she received a letter from the Elyria Law Director stating that they would only pay the deductible on the insurance of \$500. She provided copies of the damage that was done to the building in an amount that exceeded \$4,000. She was told she can file a moral claim. She is requesting the committee to reconsider the amount so that she will be able to repair the damage that was done.

Dave Rothgery said there was extremely cold weather and the 4-inch main under the sidewalk broke and the water seeped into the foundation of the basement of 114 Middle Ave. the water damage put the furnace of the building out. Mr. Rothgery said his crews came out the following morning and repaired the leak.

Law Dir Deery said the amount of \$4,700 requested is due to repair or replacement of damage that was done to the heating unit and the clean-up. The flooding was due to the fact that the main was old and broke.

Mr. Tollett asked if Ms. Springfield has filed a claim to her insurance which would pay everything except \$500. So, if the City pays the \$500 and that the claimant is asking for an additional \$4,700 on top of that?

Ms. Springfield said she filed with her insurance company but they have not agreed to reimburse for the full amount.

Ms. Springfield's son introduced himself. Kevin Wiggins, 334 Rutgers Ct., Elyria. He said that the insurance company said to them to find out what the City will pay and the insurance Co will make up the difference. The insurance company has not reimbursed them yet and has not given them any money for repairs. The insurance company has not said where they would come in at regarding a payment.

Mr. Tollett said it sounds like the insurance company is waiting on the City.

Mr. Wiggins said the insurance company is waiting to see what they can recover.

Law Dir Deery said that the Ohio Revised Code states that the City cannot pay for damages that can possibly be paid by insurance. It sounds like the insurance company is saying to see if the City will cover before they make their decision. But Council won't be able to make a final decision on this.

Chair Stewart said they will place the matter in pending items. And he asked Ms. Springfield and Mr. Wiggins to let contact the Council Office once they receive a decision back from the Insurance Company.

Mrs. Mitchell stated that if the City's water main had not broken, we would not be having this conversation.

Finance Dir Pileski said that the City does need to wait until we hear from their insurance Company before the City can decide.

This matter is tabled until the committee hears back from Ms. Springfield or Mr. Wiggins.

3. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 225 Harwood Street. Referred By: Building Official Farkas

Building Official Farkas said he has few of these this evening. The funds to board and secure these properties are withdrawn from the Building Department under the Demo Fund. Most of these were implemented under the Fire Dept or Police Dept and one was from the Building Dept., this one was called by the Police.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis to authorize a resolution for the 'said' charges.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 888 Lorain Blvd. Referred By: Building Official Farkas

Building Official Farkas said this is the Journey Inn the 1st visit was enforced by the Fire Dept and due to a break in the property had to re-secured.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis to authorize a resolution for the 'said' charges.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 1825 Lorain Blvd.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

Building Official Farkas said this was the Days Inn and a very large site. Everything had to be secured because vagrants were breaking down every window that was boarded up. So, they decided to secure from top to bottom to prevent injury.

The Building has been condemned and unfit for human occupancy. The owner has expressed interest in salvaging the structure and is in the process in getting bids to assess the damage. The total charges for securing this property is \$16,050.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize a resolution for the 'said' charges.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 2040 Midway Blvd.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Tollett to authorize a resolution for the 'said' charges.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 144 Irondale St.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

This one had a passed lien for a board up and an actual fire.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize a resolution for the 'said' charges.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of a salary increase for pay rates of CMG Mechanics.

Referred By: Safety Service Dir Lundy

This matter has been removed from the agenda and placed in 'Pending Items'.

9. The matter of submitting and accepting applications for the 2022-2023 Victims of Crime Act Grant and the 2022-2023 State Victims Assistance Act Grant.

Referred By: Law Director Deery

Law Dir Deery said these are grants that are applied for every year going back to when Pete Schilling was Law Dir. These go toward the victim's advocate salary, training and equipment. There is a match of 20% for the VOCA and not a match for the SVAA. Those matches are in the budget.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance to apply for the 'said' grants.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

10. The matter of Amendments to the Permanent Appropriations. [Standing Referral]

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

There are none this evening.

Chair Stewart asked for a motion to Adjourn this meeting.

Mr. Cerra moved and second by Mrs. Davis to adjourn this evening's Finance Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant