

THE FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, August 28th, 2023 beginning at 7:35 P.M

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

CD MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Oswald, Schneider, Lipian

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Corbin

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Director Deery, Mayor Whitfield, Safety Service Dir Lundy, Asst. Dir Williams, Finance Dir Pileski and Farrell, Asst Dir Calvert, Engineer McKillips, CD Director Scott, CD Manger Almobayyed, Parks & Rec Dir Reardon, Asst Law Dir Breunig

1. Approval of the Finance Meeting Minutes from June 26th and July 24th, 2023.

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

2. The matter of a Moral Claim for Damage submitted by Thomas Alspach.

Referred By: Safety Service Director Lundy

Dir Lundy stated this incident happened on March 14th, 2023. There was damage to a tire from a pothole on the 1200 block of Taylor in front of Invacare. There was communication with the Streets Supervisor and they were informed that they had not rec'd any previous calls for that pothole.

Mr. Alspach of 8732 Wakefield Run, N Ridgeville said he hit this pothole on the morning of March 14th. His tire indicator came on and he looked at the tire and saw that it was damaged, it had a split on the sidewall due to the pothole. He has roadside assistance and called them to change the tire. He went to a tire store the next day to replace the tire. He didn't know what his recourse was and it was recommended to call the City and he reported that pothole and got information to file a claim for damage which was denied and then he filed the moral claim, which is where he is at now. He is asking for the cost of the replacement tire of \$163.13.

Mrs. Davis asked when he called to report the pothole?

Mr. Alspach said he called the administration office to report it on March 16th.

Mr. Cerra moved and Mr. Schneider seconded to authorize payment of \$163.13 for the 'said' moral claim submitted by Mr. Thomas Alspach.

Roll Call Vote:

Cerra = Nay, Schneider = Nay, Davis = Nay, Tollett = Aye, Stewart = Nay

1 = AYE, 4 = NAY

MOTION CARREID MINORITY REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of Inactive/Delinquent EPU Accounts to be certified to The Lorain County Auditor's Office. (Standing Referral)

Referred By: Public Works Supervisor Conner

Dir Lundy said these are the bill that were approved by the EPU Resolution Board on Aug. 4th. Total amount of liens on this list is \$12,348.12. This is standard procedure.

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

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of Delinquent Stormwater Fees to be certified to The Lorain County Auditor's Office. (Standing Referral)

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer McKillips said this is an annual matter of housekeeping for stormwater utility charges. Fees that are past due more than 180 days are to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor's Office for placement on their property tax bill, pursuant to chapter 960.05 of Elyria Codified Ordinances. The fees are fees that were due in 2022. Asking for emergency due to deadline. This list includes 4,371 accounts for a total amount of \$180,930.16.

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 Final Assessments for the replacement of Private Sewer Service to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor's Office. (Standing Referral)

Referred By: Engineer McKillips

Engineer McKillips said this is also house keeping that is annual. It's the sewer lateral loan program where they cover the cost for residents that have private sewer laterals that require repair up to \$10,000. The City pays the contractor and that cost is assessed to the property owner's property taxes to be paid over a period of 10 years. This year there were 3 property owners that took advantage of the program and the total of those 3 properties is \$20,066.

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

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of charging a fee for the use of Electric Charging Ports in City Hall lot. Referred By: Engineer McKillips (Tabled 7/24/2023)

Engineer McKillips reminded that this was discussed at the last meeting to come up with a fee to attach to our existing electric charging units. She provided info to the committee. They started allowing those units to be used in December and the usage was very small up until a few months ago. Average electric bill is \$275. They want to recoup the cost of those charging stations. Our charging units show up on websites where people are looking for charging stations; Plug Share, Charge Hub, Blink. Blink is the company that our units are connected to. The goal is to get a fee on the books and start collecting to cover our costs. There are other charging stations around, the average fee is 35 cents per kilowatt hour. Engineer McKillips would like to request the City's fee to be set at a range not to exceed 50 cents per kilowatt hour.

Now there is usage, once we start charging a fee, some of that usage may drop off and it will increase our cost per kilowatt hour. We want to have enough cushion so if they

need to adjust it up a little, they can do that. She was thinking they could review and increase, if needed, on a quarterly basis, which would be a small amount. They are able to pull up reports to find out how many cars are charging and for how long. When the fee is implemented, they will be able to tack the funds being collected. This is new for the City and they are delving into it slowly.

Law Dir Deery asked how we prevent someone from parking in these spots?

Engineer McKillips said there are different ways to handle this. One way is to charge a car that is done being charged, there is an occupancy fee, which is a nominal fee. There hasn't been a problem with that as yet. These units are in the far west area of the parking lot.

Mr. Tollett said he feels we only use this for our City vehicles. It's a liability with the lithium batteries explosions that could happen. For us to compete with one of our newest businesses, Sheetz is bad practice. We should use only for City vehicles for City business. It's no different than getting free gasoline.

Law Dir Deery asked if there are any restrictions, since these units were paid for by grant monies?

Engineer McKillips said these were paid for by a grant from the Ohio EPA. These units are supposed to be available to the public, per the grant. We are to have our units registered with Charge Hub and Plug Share so that they can be located to consumers who need them. She would have to check with Ohio EPA if we can restrict usage to just government vehicles.

Dir Deery asked for a copy of that grant paperwork so they can review it so that we're not in violation of the grant.

Mr. Cerra asked how long it takes to charge a vehicle and what is a kilowatt hour?

Engineer McKillips said these units are a level 2 charging unit and they are not fast. On average 7 kilowatts per hour can be charged. A vehicle that has a 50-kilowatt battery will take 7 hours to charge. There are several places that charge by the hour. We would want to make sure we recoup our cost.

Dir Deery said the Grafton Municipal Utility Building is a Level 2 and they are free and they have solar power that is providing that service, so they don't have to pay out to a utility company. Other Government entities are charging. The fee that is ultimately set by council will be put into the fee ordinance and it will be a not to exceed fee.

Mr. Schneider asked if there will be a credit card swiper to use the charging units or is it app driven?

Engineer McKillips said these units are App driven. Blink is the company that oversees the units and they are connected to. the customer will need the Blink on their phone and the payment info will be in their app. There is an RFID reader on the unit and the customer will tap that and it will go into their app. They will also be able to use a credit card and call the phone number that's on the unit. Blink will collect the funds that are paid and they will send payments to the Finance Office on a regular basis.

Mayor Whitfield said he pulled up the public program guidance. Site requirements were that the units be publicly visible and on public property, a safe well-lit convenient location on a paved parking space and are publicly accessible at least 16 hours a day during daylight hours. Also, signage is required. We got this grant in 2020 from the Ohio EPA, but it came through NOACA.

Other communities that received this same grant were Beechwood, Avon, Lakewood, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, Cuyahoga County Library and West Branch of the Elyria Public Library. The purpose of this was to start to adopt to electric vehicles. Some of the concerns that were brought up by Councilman Tollett came up at a NOACA board meeting and were discussed, it was made clear that cities cannot make a profit off of these, they are only to cover the cost. The goal is to get an adoption of electric vehicles and not compete with the private sector. Our charging station is a level 2 which is not fast.

Chair Stewart said this matter will go back into being tabled so the Law Dept can review the grant and the guidelines.

7. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 150 Bath Street.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

8. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 215 Clark Street.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

9. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 446 11th Street.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

10. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 309 E. Broad Street.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

11. The matter of a property lien for boarding up and securing the property located at 421 13th Street.

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

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

Referred By: Building Official Farkas

Chair Stewart stated items 7 through 12 have been removed from this agenda and will be brought back at another time.

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

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

Finance Dir Pileski said he has four appropriation changes this evening. 1st being in the pools & splash pads depts., moving \$50,000 from salary & wages to operating & maintenance to purchase a new filter at East Pool. Summer camp dept., moving \$9,285 from operating & maintenance, \$7,667 moved to salary & wages, \$2,911 to benefits & pension which is a wash to clean up that account. A request from the block grant fund from CD Dir to add \$40,000 to rehab operations salary & wages, \$7,300 to benefits & pension and \$150,000 to operating & maintenance. ARPA fund, revenue replacement Parks & Rec, to move \$19,108 from operating and \$17,407 to salary & wages and \$1,701 to benefits & pension to clean those accounts up.

Parks Dir Reardon said the pool filter that needs to be replaced is actually for the North pool. About a week or two into the season there was a hole in the filter because it rusted through. It was a constant fix the rest of the season. It is over 20 years old and a new filter is needed to be able to open the pool next year. The money is in the budget. There is a 6 to 8-week lead time, which is why they would like to order is sooner rather than later and they'll be ready for next season. The cost for the filter itself is \$28,000 and labor will be extra.

Chair Stewart asked Dir Reardon if she had the numbers for the usage of the pools from this season and when did they close?

Dir Reardon said they closed August 12th. Swim lesson numbers were up and open swim numbers were down, because they didn't have the lifeguards to open both pools every day for open swim, so that number is down. Swim instructors do not need to be lifeguards so that's why we were able to still have swim lessons.

Mr. Cerra moved, Mr. Schneider second to authorize an ordinance to amend the 2023 permanent appropriations.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

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 8:25 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant