

# **THE FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 beginning at 6:30 P.M**

*Note: the sound system in Council Chambers went down, therefore there is no audio recording of this meeting and these minutes have been created from notes taken during the meeting.*

**FINANCE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Chair Stewart, Tollett, Cerra, Davis, Schneider  
**CD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Co-Chair Mitchell, Oswald, Schneider, Lipian  
**OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Corbin and Simmons  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Law Director Deery, Safety Service Dir Lundy, Asst. Dir Calvert, Finance Dir's Pileski and Farrell, Building Official Farkas, WWPC Supt Korzan, Public Works Conner

## **1. Approval of the Finance Meeting Minutes from August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

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

## **2. 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

Mrs. Conner said these are the bills that were approved by the EPU Resolution Board on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. Total amount of liens on this list is \$14,739.00. 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**

## **3. The matter of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The City of Elyria and AFSCME for a grievance settlement.**

Referred By: HR Director Yousefi

Dir Lundy said the grievance was settled in January 2023.

It's impacted 10,000 projects

He can't say enough good things about our electricians, they play critical roles in the City. Employees in other departments also play critical roles; Waste Water Pollution Control, The Water Pumping Plant and Water Distribution.

Law Dir Deery said the timing of the grievance has passed the 30 days and why are we here in September discussing this now and it was already denied by the Mayor during the Step III hearing.

HR Dir Yousefi said yes, it's far past the time and the union could file an unfair labor practice complaint. They are looking to add additional electrician positions. There is currently a \$12,000 difference in steps between the electrician specialist position and the new position titled equipment controls position.

An option would be to add an intermediate step? The additional step would offer better opportunities.

Law Deery said that is a good faith option to add the intermediate step and by meeting somewhere in the middle. She reminded the committee that we're not here today to settle a grievance. And she agrees with HR Dir Yousefi that this could be an unfair labor practice.

Chair Stewart said this is being brought to the committee half way through a three-year Contract. Shouldn't this be considered during labor negotiations?

Mr. Tollett agrees that. Why are we opening a contract in the middle? If we do this for one we would have to do it for others.

Dir Lundy said this is a grievance settlement.

Chair Stewart said this matter coming before the committee is not a grievance, it hasn't had arbitration and it in the middle of its three-year contract.

Mr. Tollett said the grievance portion of this matter is not applicable. What we are considering this evening is not a union agreement.

Law Dir Deery said the matter was resolved in January 2023.

Dir Lundy said there is a process and it was a grievance settlement.

Chair Stewart said that it's not fair to wait for 10 months to bring it to the committee.

Supt Korzan said if he had to contract out, they would be paying \$100 per hour. The EPA requires a Class 4 for supervisors and occasionally allow Class 3 as long as they're certified management staff.

Chair Stewart said they appreciate those who have certifications.

Mr. Tollett asked why this wasn't addressed during negotiations 18 months ago?

Supt Korzan said he had brought this matter to administration but it wasn't forwarded on. And the money is in the budget.

HR Dir Yousefi said the administration did address this and the pay did go up a minimal amount.

Chair Stewart said they will not take any action on this matter tonight and it will go into Pending items.

Dir Lundy said they are having problems hiring an electrician due to the pay.

Law Dir Deery said there currently is no ongoing grievance to resolve this issue. They can modify the pay for electricians to add Electrician Specialist, I and II. And also, to add Technician Specialist, I and II. She suggested that a referral is made to council to bring it to committee.

Mr. Tollett said we should get rid of the grievance and create this new job classification.

Mrs. Davis said she is not in favor of this matter at this time and it should be addressed during contract negotiations.

Finance Dir Pileski said these positions are not a part of the grievance.

**Chair Stewart said this matter will be placed in pending items and to be brought back to the table at a future date.**

#### **4. The matter of Amendments to the Permanent Appropriations.**

*[Standing Referral]*

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

Finance Dir Pileski went over the appropriation changes;

1. \$40,000 to appropriate NOPEC grant monies already received for the purchase of 3 solar workstation tables.
2. \$1,949,368 from Capital Outlay to Debt Service to cover a portion of State Infrastructure Bank Loan.
3. \$95,225 to Muni Court Construction/Improvement Fund for a share of the 2023 Muni Court construction bond payment.

**Mr. Cerra moved, Mr. Schneider second to authorize an ordinance to amend the 'said' 2023 permanent appropriation changes.**

**MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Stewart asked for a motion to Adjourn this meeting.*

**Mrs. Davis moved and second by Mr. Schneider to adjourn this evening's Finance Meeting at 7:25 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant