

THE FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, November 27th, 2023 beginning at 7:05 P.M

Finance Members Present: Chair Stewart, Tollett, Davis, Schneider, Cerra

CD Members Present: Chair Callahan, Mitchell, Oswald, Schneider

Excused Absence: Lipian

Other Council Members Present: Corbin and Simmons

Others Present: Law Director Deery, Safety Service Dir Lundy, Mayor Whitfield, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Calvert, Asst Dir Williams, Engineer McKillips, CD Dir Scott, CD Manager Almabayyed, Chief Pelko, Chief Pronesti, Water Team Leader Jacob, Attorney Anderson

Chair Stewart changed up the Agenda order.

11. The matter of the purchase the property located at 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd.

Referred By: Ward 3 Council Member Corbin

[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting] [Discussion with possible Action]

The property owner of 39009 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mr. Dennis Campanalie was first to speak on this matter. Mr. Campanalie said this has been an ordeal for him and his family. He doesn't want to wind up in a body bag because someone's car came flying down the street and into his house. He has put boulders in the yard and one is in his living room on the wall. If he didn't have that boulder there, the guy with the 4,500-pound car would have gone right thru his house and could've killed him or his wife. He's been putting up with this for 30 years. He said his yard is all tore up even though his wife tries to keep it looking nice. He wants the City to declare that piece of land non-buildable. He wants the City to buy it and give him a fair market value. He doesn't feel safe in that house. Alcohol and drugs have fueled a lot of the accidents and many drives just fly up and down the road. Friday and Saturday nights are really bad with show offs. He wants the committee to take this into consideration. He thanked the committee for listening and he hopes they decide to buy his home.

Chair Stewart asked if there were questions.

Mr. Tollett said it's critical that the Campanalies homeowner's insurance company reach out to the City. Before the details can be discussed the City needs to hear from them.

Mr. Stewart said once the City has communication with the insurance company and the matter will be placed back on the agenda and the City will notify him when that will be.

Next speaker is Donna Frank, 23626 Parkwood Drive, she is the niece of the Campanalies. In the 30 years they have lived there, the traffic has increased significantly. The City started with a stop sign at that intersection, then they installed a flashing light and then a stop light. The City has tried to make small changes to stop and slow the traffic, nothing has helped. There is even more traffic since Chestnut Commons opened. Just this year Parma bought several homes because they couldn't solve the flooding issues, *Cleveland Heights just agreed to purchase a home which has been hit by cars numerous times.

**An article regarding issues with this house in Cleveland Hts. is attached to these minutes.*

Ms. Frank said no citizen should have to live with worry or fear. She asked the committee to agree to purchase this property for a fair price and if not, which Elyria citizen would you recommend be the next resident of this house?

Next speaker is William Reitz of 1836 S. Abbe Rd. He's seen Mr. Campanalie's house hit 3 times and the yard damaged twice. He's seen people die where the car actually flew through the air and up on the garage and landed on the car that was parked in the garage. The people inside that car were pronounced dead. He hopes that the City can do something for these homeowners.

Next speaker is Michael Whitlock of 5598 Wallace Blvd., N Ridgeville, he is the son-in-law of Mr. Campanalie. He thanked Mr. Tollett for his guidance. Most are probably not aware of what a daunting task a homeowner goes through after a vehicle goes through their home. The Campanalie's are getting representation against the drivers. They are not bringing blame to Council, what they're asking for is help. They are not in a battle with the City.

Chair Stewart thanked everyone for coming up and voicing their concerns.

Chair Stewart went back into the Agenda order:

1. The matter of applying for and accepting a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account Agreement (WSRLA) for removal of lead / galvanized water service lines.

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Team Leader Jacob said this is the fourth time they are applying for this loan. The first two were 100% forgivable and they received 2 million dollars and the other one was 54% forgivable at zero percent interest. He met with Water Dist. and they think a 5-million-dollar loan would get rid of all the lead service lines. This would be 2.7 million dollars forgivable and/or 2.3 million at zero percent interest. This should get them at zero lead service lines in the City.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis to authorize applying for and to accept 'said' Grant or Loan through the Ohio EPA. Emergency clause.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

2. The matter of advertising for bids and entering into a contract for the replacement of lead and galvanized water service lines.

Referred By: Water Team Leader Jacob

Mrs. Davis asked if there are certain areas of the City where more of these lead lines are?

Mr. Jacob said they are mainly in the older areas of the City, houses built before 1970. Dave Rothgery and his crew are canvassing neighborhoods to find where they think those lines might be and currently 'Lead Service Line Project Number Three' is going on now. Every million dollars will do about 250 to 270 houses.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 'said' agreement. Emergency clause.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of Amendments to Chapter 192 of Elyria Codified Ordinances, Elyria Income Tax. Referred By: Asst Law Dir Breunig

Law Dir Deery said there is a need to amend the City's Municipal Income Tax Codified Ordinances due to the fact that the General Assembly adopted House Bill 33. Based on recommendations from RITA, Attorney Breunig has made the changes and they will be circulated this week. They are updating the language of what the City already does and we do not collect income tax under earners under the age of 18. There are definitions that are updated. Earners can elect whether or not they want to file under our Municipal Ordinances or the Revised Code. There are other things that the General Assembly is doing and essentially this needs to be put into place and be effective by the end of the year and it needs an emergency clause.

Motion made by Mr. Schneider and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize an ordinance authorizing the 'said' amendments to Chapter 192, Emergency Clause requested. MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of amending the salary ordinance with a 3% increase for Chapter 165 Employees. Referred By: Mayor Whitfield

Law Dir Deery said this is housekeeping. In 2022 Council passed 3% for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for certain non-bargaining classified and unclassified employees and then a second 3% for 2023 and it was set that a matter of a future COLA for wages of these same employees would be revisited for 2024.

Director Lundy made the referral for Chapter 165 and because it is a larger group of classified and unclassified employee, they decided to deal with it all at once under this committee report.

Finance Dir Pileski said the 3% is for non-bargaining. The union for the service workers in AFSCME and 2024 is the final year of their contract and their contract calls for a 3% increase. Over the years they have given non-bargaining that same increase. This increase will go into effect the first full pay period of 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Tollett and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance authorizing the 'said' amendments to the Salary Ordinance. MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4A. The matter of setting the salaries of full-time elected officials; Mayor, Finance Director and Law Director pursuant to the City Salary Structure. Standing Referral

Chair Stewart said that it is his recommendation, because of the efforts and the hard work of the Finance Director and the Law Director to present a committee report to increase the salaries of the 'said' elected officials.

Mayor Whitfield asked what the increase is?

Chair Stewart said it is for the elected officials to go to a different salary classification, the salary structure step for the Law & Finance Director is E83, Step 4, \$134,430.

The step for the Mayor is E83, Step 5, \$138,578.

Motion made by Mr. Tollett and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize an ordinance authorizing the salaries of 'said' elected officials commencing on the terms of 01/01/2024.

MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Stewart said Agenda Item #5 is Tabled, Agenda Item #6 is removed and it can be brought back to the committee at a later date. Agenda item #7 is Tabled. Agenda Item #10 is removed and it can be brought back at a later date.

5. The matter of the purchase of 90 Harris radios for the Police Department.

Referred By: Police Chief Pelko *[Discussion Only]* **TABLED**

6. The matter of a professional service agreement with McCaulley & Company for grant writing and consulting services for 2024.

Referred By: Safety Service Dir Lundy
***[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting]* [Discussion with possible Action] REMOVED**

7. The matter of a request to purchase license plate readers to increase the safety of residents.

Referred By: Mayor Whitfield
***[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting]* [Discussion with possible Action] TABLED**

10. The matter of establishing an Animal Control Officer position for the EPD.

Referred By: Ward 1 Council Member Lipian
***[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting]* [Discussion with possible Action] REMOVED**

12. The matter of Amendments to the 2023 Permanent Appropriations.

[Standing Referral]
Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

There were no amendments this evening.

8. The matter of amending the salary ordinance to increase salary & benefits for Elyria Police Officers.

Referred By: Mayor Whitfield
***[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting]* [Discussion with possible Action]**

9. The matter of amending the salary ordinance to increase salary of the Police Chief.

Referred By: Mayor Whitfield
***[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting]* [Discussion with possible Action]**

Chair Stewart said the committee will go into Executive Session to discuss the matter of the salary increase for Police Officers and the salary increase for the Police Chief.

Law Dir Deery the session is for matters pertaining to the collective bargaining agreement.

Motion was made to take a roll call vote to go into Executive Session.

Roll Call was taken:

Cerra – Aye

Tollett – Aye

Davis – Aye

Schneider – Aye

Stewart – Aye

The committee went into Executive Session at 7:35 P.M.

The committee came out of Executive Session at 8:40 P.M.

After Executive Session the committees voted on what was discussed.

**8. The matter of amending the salary ordinance to increase salary & benefits for Elyria Police Officers. Referred By: Mayor Whitfield
[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting] [Discussion with possible Action]**

**Motion made by Mr. Tollett and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance to amend the Salary Ordinance and for Administration to enter into ‘Said’ MOU’s as per discussed in Executive Session. Emergency Clause.
MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**9. The matter of amending the salary ordinance to increase salary of the Police Chief. Referred By: Mayor Whitfield
[Tabled from Nov. 13th Meeting] [Discussion with possible Action]**

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Tollett to authorize an ordinance for the creation of ‘said’ position and amending the Salary Ordinance.
Emergency Clause requested.
MOTION CARRIED COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

13. The matter of Amendments to the 2023 Permanent Appropriations.

[Standing Referral]

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell

There were no amendments this evening.

Mr. Schneider moved and second by Mr. Cerra to adjourn this evening's Finance Meeting at 8:50 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant