

## **THE FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 beginning at 6:00 P.M.**

### **Committee Members Present:**

Finance: Chair Tollett, Davis, Schneider, Cerra, Siwierka  
CD: Chair Mitchell, Schneider, Oswald, Lipian  
Utilities: Chair Mitchell, Davis, Oswald, Armstrong, Stewart  
Absent: Callahan

**Administration and Department Heads Present:** Mayor Brubaker, Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Pyanowski, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Engineer Schneider, Water Team Leader Jacob

### **1. The matter of final amendments 2024 permanent appropriations.**

Referred By: Finance Dir. Pileski

Director Pileski said this is the time of year they go thru the current appropriations and make sure there is enough to carry thru December.

On the last page of the handout, it shows additions in green and deductions in red. Total all funds, they're adding \$2,478,826 and deducting \$1,984,702. That is more than half of the difference. On page 8, they are adding \$220,00 to the police levy fund. They have 5 different pools of funds to pay police; General Fund, 2016 ½% income Tax Fund, Police Levy Fund, ARPA money that came directly to us from the US Treasury and we had ARPA money that come from the State to be used to hire Police.

This shows that they are moving money from one account to another account within each department.

Mrs. Siwierka asked about the health insurance and if the figure includes the employees that have hit the stop gap?

Dir Pileski said yes, he just wants to make sure they will get thru December. He put the extra \$300,000 to make sure the claims in the last week are covered. That would hit the stop gap and it would not need to cover the stop gap.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if there is a thought for 2025 to keep more expensive people (more longevity or higher wages) in one particular fund vs another.

Dir Pileski said they take the lowest 10 employees and they come out of the 2016 ½% Income Tax Fund, the next 25 after that come out of the Police Levy Fund and the rest come out of the General Fund. The Police Levy Fund is struggling because it's all income tax.

**Motion made by Mrs. Siwierka and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize the approval of the 'said' final amendments to the 2024 permanent appropriations as per discussed.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

### **2. The matter of the 2025 temporary appropriations.**

Referred By: Fin. Dir. Pileski

Finance Dir Pileski said they took a look at the appropriations for 2024 after this evening's amendments. They took 33 percent of the appropriations from 2024 and included it in the 2025 Temporary. Police and Fire in the Gen Fund because some employees were being paid from ARPA in 2024 and now have to be shifted to be paid out of the General Fund for 2025. That's 29 police and 17 fire. They're temp will be higher than it normally is. There was some Capital funds/Capital Needs Dept. those requested, will become the permanent, the total was \$1,200,000. Does not include Parks & Rec. Dir Pileski continued the reading the list which was part of what was passed out at the meeting. Total requests for P&R is \$1,490,000.

Dir Pileski went on to say that it's going to be an issue with moving so many police and fire into the General Fund for 2025 and beyond. And in 2026, when there is that one extra payroll, General Fund will be, with benefits, with benefits, it will be \$1.4 to 1.5 million in addition to what they normally appropriate. That will have to be kept in mind as they move forward in 2025. As of today, there is 16 million in cash in the General Fund. The 29 police and 17 fire moving into the General Fund is at a cost of close to \$5 million per year. The cash balance will be eroded quickly. Engineering requested \$2,650,000.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize the approval of the 'said' 2025 Temporary Appropriations appropriations as per discussed.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

### **3. The matter of the 2016 ½ percent income tax renewal.**

Referred By: Law Director Deery and Finance Director Pileski

Law Director Deery said she and Dir Pileski have been in discussions on the matter of presenting this renewal to the voters. The expiration of the current term of the 2016 ½% income tax will be June 2026. There are 3 elections between now and then. We take this to a primary vote and then time it so that we give ourselves more than one opportunity. She would ask that the Council as a whole consider to put this to the voters on the May 2025 Primary Ballot. We need to have this submitted to BOA primary to February deadline.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if there are any dollars left over in the levy campaign?

Dir Pileski said he believes there is around \$2,800 in that fund. As we approach going to the voters, it's always been known as Issue 6, but it may not be Issue 6 when it gets on the next ballot, it is to be referred as the 2016 ½% Income Tax.

Mrs. Mitchell said the City gets a lot of streets done with these dollars.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance that the Temporary Income Tax Renewal to be placed on the May 2025 Primary Ballot.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**4. The matter of part-time seasonal for both City and Elyria Municipal court in order to comply with the State of Ohio minimum wage increase of \$10.70.**

Referred By: Asst. Fin. Dir. Farrell

Finance Dir Farrell said this happens every year. It effects a number of part-time employees, mostly in the Parks & Rec Dept. Also a few in Muni Court. There are incremental steps in some of these positions.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for City employees and Muni Court employees to incorporate changes to comply with the minimum wage rate of \$10.70 per hour and to take effect at pay period 2, in 2025 and motion was made for this to pass as emergency.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**5. The matter of entering a contract for Operator of Records at Waste Water Pollution Control.**

Referred By: SSD Pyanowski

Dir Pyanowski said that they have been given notice by Mr. Korzan that he cannot continue on in the temporary role as he has been. It has been helpful to utilize his knowledge and Class four license. Shayne Stewart is working on his Class four. But we need someone with that license to comply with EPA requirements. We've worked with two individuals that we'd like to contract with as independent contractors to help cover the period of time until Mr. Stewart acquires his license. That is so we can meet those requirements and have operators with that sufficient license and we'd like to do it with two, since each is only available part-time and between the two of them the City's needs will be able to be met. They will receive a flat hourly rate and they will be 1099 employees. The time frame will be about 6 months. Mr. Stewart will apply in February and once his application is approved he can be the acting operator.

**Motion made by Mrs. Siwierka and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for Operator of Records at the WWPC Plant, emergency clause applies due to plant requirements.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**6. The matter of approval of the FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement.**

Referred By: SSD Pyanowski

Dir Pyanowski said that he will withdraw this refer, it's a duplicate in error.

**7. The matter of authorization to certify high grass bills to the Lorain County Auditor.**

Referred By: SSD Pyanowski

Dir Pyanowski said this is a standard process for high grass bills that haven't been paid. The list of addresses are delinquent charges that need to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor's Office to be assessed to the owner's property taxes.

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize a resolution authorizing said delinquent charges to be certified to the LC Auditor's Office as per the attached list of properties.**

**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**8. The matter of a New Laborer Position III with P&R Department.**

Referred By: Asst. Fin. Dir. Farrell

Dir Farrell said Parks Dir asked that a part-time level of a Labor position be added to the department. Some part-time employees have returned for a number of years and have worked their way through the first two levels.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance to amend the salary ordinance to add a new laborer position and title it Laborer III. Emergency clause.**

**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Tollett asked for a 10 minute recess.*

***Chair Tollett asked Chair Mitchell to call Utilities Committee to begin the Joint Meeting with Finance Committee at 6:55 P.M.***

*Chair Tollett asked for a motion to adjourn Finance Committee.*

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Siwierka to adjourn this evening's Finance Committee Meeting at 8:10 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant