

The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a meeting on Monday, July 14th, 2025 beginning at 7:40 P.M.

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Tollett, Cerra, Schneider, Siwierka

COM DEV PRESENT: Chair Schneider, Mitchell, Oswald, Callahan

OTHERS: Stewart, Armstrong

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Davis, Lipian

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski, Mayor Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Public Works Sup Conner, Asst Dir Calvert, Building Official Farkas, Engineer Schneider, CD Director Scott

1. The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting, from June 9th, 2025 as circulated.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and seconded by Mr. Schneider to approve the said Joint Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of delinquent and final utility accounts approved by the Utility Resolution Board and to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor's Office.

Referred By: Public Works Sup Conner

Supt Conner said this list contains 43 accounts that were approved to be liened to the county and the total is \$40,884.50.

Mrs. Siwierka asked about amount at 627 Dewey and how is it that high, \$4,328.15?

Ms. Conner said there was a substantial leak and it was two and a half months of high consumption. Normally the property owner stays in contact to make payments, but no one has heard from her.

Mrs. Siwierka asked about the charges on Asbury which belong to the United Methodist Village, if they were additional properties?

Ms. Conner said yes, they have not responded to any of the letters that have been mailed to the office.

Chair Tollett said he thinks they need to look to start adding finance charges, on these that are continually delinquent in paying.

Dir Pyanowski said when they update the utilities rules to add late fees which would be a percentage. And the habitual late payer would receive a large penalty in addition to the percentage for that month. They are working on revising those rules.

Mrs. Siwierka reminded the committee that the sanitation charges are billed a month in advance.

She agrees we need to do something on these same accounts that are delinquent over and over again and especially the sewer and sanitation accounts.

Mr. Schneider asked if there are ever issues where at the time of a sale and the title company is withholding monies and someone says the Rural Lorain County is there water authority and they say there's no balance and then the title company releases the water and sewer hold, which is what it is in real estate and then the City is left hanging with that sewer bill.

Dir Connor said they do a pretty good job of verifying those through. She had one recently that was forwarded on and the title company wanted to make sure we were water only. The title company is really careful with those. They do make sure there is escrow money held when they do the final bill. Ms. Conner said the delinquency rate of over 60 days is four to five percent because of shut-offs and following up. We have cleaned up our charges pretty good, an example is The city of Toledo is in bad shape, they are still going after old bills from coved.

There were no further questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize a resolution to authorize the 'said' delinquent accounts to be certified to the County Auditor.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of a submitting applications to the Ohio Attorney General's Office for a Victims of Crime Act Grant and a State Victims Assistance Grant for the Victim's Assistance Program.

Referred By: Law Dir Deery

Dir Deery said these two grants are applied for every year and have been awarded each year. Applications are in the process of being submitted again for the upcoming grant cycle and they are requesting authorization o submit and accept. Monies will be utilized for advocates salary and training and equipment.

There were no questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Schneider, second by Mr. Cerra to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept the 'said' grant and emergency clause applies due to deadline.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of an application for a Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program.

Referred By: Fire Chief Pronesti

Director Pyanowski said this grant, if awarded, would be used to purchase smoke detectors. Then they would have to determine how to distribute them. It's to make them free to residents.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mrs. Siwierka to authorize the Mayor to apply for and accept the 'said' grant and emergency clause applies.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of City property (Treadmill – Fire Department) which is unfit for use and to be taken out of service and to be disposed of by the best means possible.

Referred By: Fire Chief Pronesti

Director Pyanowski said this an old treadmill that is no longer able to be used.

There were no questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Schneider, second by Mr. Cerra to authorize a resolution declaring the 'said' equipment unfit for City use and an ordinance to dispose of the 'said' equipment by the best means possible in accordance with the law.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of submitting application(s) for the Ohio Public Works Commission Projects, Round 40, year 2026.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider *(This matter was approved by Utilities Committee on 7/9/25)*

Engineer Schneider said with the passage of Issue 2 this past election, we now have another 10 years of Ohio Public Works funds to utilize. He has a list of 5 potential streets to apply for, for next year's cycle. The list of streets; Murray Ridge (Albrecht to Lowell St.), West Ave. (Oberlin-Elyria Rd. to 15th St.), Washington Ave. (Black River Bridge to Ohio St.), Griswold Rd. (West River to Tillotson), Taylor St. (Rt. 57, east to Corp line). These streets are suggestions for Council to consider. Some of these streets are for concrete repair. Engineer Schneider will ask for the committee to approve for the Mayor to apply for funds for these projects.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept the 'said' funds, if offered.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of a Local Public Agency (LPA) agreement with ODOT for the LOR-Elyria TLCI Phase 6 project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider *(This matter was approved by Utilities Committee on 7/9/25)*

Engineer Schneider said this is Phase 6 of the TLCI project in the downtown area. This is for signage and sidewalk improvements and pavement markings as well as some underpass lighting on the bridge on Kerstetter Way. This is 100% grant. They are looking to get permission to enter into the agreement so they can move forward with it.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into 'said' agreement for the TLCI Phase 6 project.
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of advertising and awarding a contract for the TLCI Phase 6 project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider *(This matter was approved by Utilities Committee on 7/9/25)*

Engineer Schneider said they would like to go out for bid for this project. They had applied for this about a year and a half ago and they just need to finalize the paperwork.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for the TLCI Phase 6 project.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

9. The matter of advertising & awarding a contract for the WWPC Pole Barn project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider *(This matter was approved by Utilities Committee on 7/9/25)*

Engineer Schneider said they have been trying to get this project going for a number of years. This pole barn will be constructed on the top side of the treatment plant property. They will install the pole barn and a small salt shed, which will allow that department to assist with some winter salting. The estimate for this project is \$300,000 and they have the funds in the current budget. This will be a 3-sided structure, with an option to convert to a 4-sided structure in the future. The size will be 60 by 120 feet. It will house some large equipment to be protected from the weather.

Dir Pileski said the money will come from the Waste water Pollution Control Fund, from user fees that we receive from users of the system.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if they will remove a building to put this up, is there enough space?

Engineer Schneider said it will be located in the area where first drive in, on the right side of the driveway.

Motion made by Mr. Schneider, second by Mr. Cerra to authorize the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the 'said' project.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

10. The matter of Amendments to the 2025 Permanent Appropriations Ordinance.

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

Dir Pileski said this in the General Fund Housing Code Enforcement Dept., (Building Department) adding \$175,000 to the operating and maintenance account. This is for the demolition of the house on Cedar Street which was demolished today, July 14th.

Director Pyanowski said since the topic was brought up, the house came down without any issues.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance to amend the 'said' permanent appropriations.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Tollett had a question for the Law Director before adjournment. He said the State of Ohio; State Senate is talking about overriding a veto that Governor DeWine enacted. If the Governor overrides this, does anyone, Dir Pileski or Dir Deery, know if it will affect inside millillage?

Dir Pileski said no, he would think the veto is a certain part of the bill and he doesn't know if it addresses the inside millillage. He's not sure of any of the details.

Chair Tollett asked for a motion to adjourn The Finance Committee Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to adjourn the Community Development Committee Meeting at 8:00 P.M.

MOTION CARRIES

The Next Finance Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 11th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant