

# **The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a meeting on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 beginning at 6:10 P.M**

**FINANCE PRESENT:** Chair Tollett, Cerra, Schneider, Siwierka, Davis  
**UTILITIES PRESENT:** Chair Mitchell, Armstrong, Stewart, Oswald, Davis  
**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Callahan, Lipian  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski, Mayor Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Fin Dir Farrell, Public Works Supt Conner, Engineer Schneider,

## **1.The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting, from November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as circulated on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and seconded by Mrs. Siwierka to approve the 'said' 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 Supt Conner

Supt Conner said this is a list of 42 accounts which were approved on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> resolution board meeting. The total amount of these accounts is \$22,920.07. These are the same type of accounts that they have each month.

Chair Tollett asked if her office has heard anything about the additional fee for late payment?

Supt Conner said no, they haven't had anyone ask about those charges.

*There were no more 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 certify said charges as liens to the LC Auditor's Office.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

## **3. The matter of Sanitation Department property, (2 sanitation trucks) which are unfit for use and to be disposed of by the best means possible.**

Referred By: Public Works Supervisor R. Eye

Dir Pyanowski said these are sanitation trucks with high mileage; one has an excess of 92,000 and the other has an excess of \$106,000. All the usable parts have been pulled from these trucks. At this point they will try to sell these on gov deals to recoup whatever they can and get them off the lot and get it cleaned up.

Chair Tollett asked about the two new sanitation trucks and if they are ready to be purchased?

Dir Pyanowski said they are available and the City has signed the letter of intent, but won't make the purchase until after the first of the year once the budget is passed.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mrs. Siwierka to authorize a resolution and an ordinance for the said item(s) to be removed from service and disposed of.**

**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

#### **4. The matter of a Collective Bargaining Agreement for The Dispatchers Union.**

Referred By: Safety Service Dir Pyanowski

Dir Pyanowski said this is the last contract that had to be negotiated. They are on a different cycle than other unions. This will be a three-year agreement. There were not a lot of substantial changes, some were house keeping and they added a couple things. For instance, a pay for someone who is bilingual and can speak Spanish which is becoming more prevalent in our society. And there's a section where they can cash out their sick leave, consistent with other contracts. Then the pay increase which was settled on for the 12 employees at 5%, 4% and 3% increase over 3-years. These new rates will keep us competitive with other communities in the area. As a reminder they did do an MOU earlier in the year for an increase to continue to keep this group competitive with other dispatch unions.

Chair Tollett asked if Dir Pileski if he is good with this contract?

Dir Pileski said the estimated cost over the three years of this contract will be roughly \$150,000 over the three-year period and it's paid out of the general fund.

Law Dir Deery recommended that this would be an emergency clause due to the effective date being January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if these dispatchers work 8-hour days or 12-hour days? And she asked if the PERS issue has gotten straightened out?

Dir Pyanowski said they work 8-hour shifts. And he said Attorney Anderson is working with the representative with the union to resolve that issue.

Fin Dir Farrell said it was an issue whether the buy back will be pensionable, they're working on that.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mrs. Siwierka to authorize an ordinance authorizing the approval of the ratified agreement with the Dispatch for wage increases of 5%, 4% and 3% for three years.**

**MOTION CARRIES                      COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**\*5. The matter of Advancing Monies from the General Fund to other Funds.**

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

Dir Pileski said at the end of the year they are down to the end of the budget. They have two reimbursement grants that we probably won't see reimbursed by the end of the year for any block grant reimbursements. That may cause a negative cash balance in the block grant fund which the independent auditors' frown upon. He is asking to advance a max of \$50,439 from the general fund to the block grant fund.

In the case of the SAFER grant fund, which is firefighters, we haven't received reimbursement since before the government shutdown. They're backlogged. The cash balance in that fund is negative \$99,000. With one more payroll to post, he's asking that they allow him to advance a max of \$120,000 from general fund to SAFER grant fund. Both of these would be repaid upon receipt of the grant next year.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mrs. Davis to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to advance a max of \$50,439 from the General Fund to the Block Grant Fund and a max of \$120,000 from the General Fund to the SAFER Grant Fund and to be repaid upon receipt of grant monies. Emergency.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**6. The matter of Amendments to the 2025 Permanent Appropriations Ordinance.**

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

Finance Dir Pileski said with this being the end of the year, he goes through each fund and paying attention to the payroll accounts in each fund because there is still one pay to post and he want to make sure that everything is covered for the end of the year. He went over the hand out that everyone received. The total for the general fund with additions of \$687,125 and reductions of \$600,900, which is a minimal change is the overall general fund budget. He went over additions and reductions in other funds which were listed in the handout.

The biggest change is on page 10 which is for the Public Works Complex construction fund. At the end of 2024 they issued 21 million in one-year general obligation notes to get the project started and they are now due. They did not appropriate the money in the debt service. That note will be paid off with the bond proceeds which were priced last week. those proceeds of 16 million plus 5 million of note proceeds that was rolled over and will pay the one-year note off and then will start paying that over the long term. So, he is appropriating the payment on the one-year note of 21 million.

There are projects in the water fund, he took money away because they weren't done. Adding \$588,000 throughout the four water departments and reducing by 2,900,000.00. Added \$10,000 to the Misc. Dept in the sanitation fund. He was able to reduce the sanitation dept by \$640,000 for unused money which was for a vehicle that we did not purchase. But we will be purchasing the two that were discussed, once the temporary appropriations are passed.

There was a little change is the WWPC fund, the sewer fund. Adding \$221,535 to various account line items and reducing capital outlay by \$4,250,000 for projects that went unappropriated or unencumbered. In the Storm Water Fund, reducing capital outlay by one million and operating by \$500,000 for unused appropriations. Overall, the \$21 million amendment for debt service is the cause for the large \$23,099,534 for all funds and then a reduction of \$11,017,317 for all funds.

This should cover all the incumbrances and expenditures, but with one payroll left to post and bills, still to pay, there may be some that may go over by a little bit.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mrs. Davis to authorize an ordinance to amend the 'said' permanent appropriations for the year 2025, as per attached list.**  
**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

## **7. The matter of Temporary Appropriations for the first three months of the year 2026 and other expenses of the City.**

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

Dir Pileski said the Permanent Appropriations need to be passed by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. We have always passed the temporary appropriations so there is time to work on the permanent appropriations for the final budget. This starts out at 33% of the final 2025 as amended and start with that as the temporary appropriations. They include any open purchase orders and/or incumbrances. They are bumping up what's been ordered and opened.

There are projects that the Engineer's office asked to be included in the Temporary and that was handed out to everyone.

The Waste water fund is requesting \$15,850,000 in the temporary, which is the Waste water Capital Fund, with the largest amount being the WWPC plant improvements, activated sludge and aeration which is an estimated 11 million-dollar project.

Another project is 3 million for pipelining, \$800,000 for a pole barn, \$300,000 for in-house upgrades, \$300,000 for the lateral loan program and \$400,000 for emergency sanitary storm repairs.

The funds requested in the Waste water Miscellaneous fund/professional services (which is operating), requesting \$1,220,000 for the consent decree program management and \$200,000 for the East Side Relief Sewer Phase 2 South Project and \$20,000 for one third of the cost of the GIS project for Storm Sanitarian water.

This total adds up to 17 million for the temporary.

Water Misc. construction is \$10,850,000 for the temporary and will be carried forward into the permanent. This amount includes 4.7 million in treatment plant upgrades, which include high service improvements, \$350,000 for the waste water treatment and clear well and docks construction, \$650,000 for new roof at the plant, \$150,000 for water lateral replacement program and 5 million for lead service line number 5 EPA loan grant project, that is paid by the EPA directly to the contractor and the city records it as a revenue expense and the loan to the city will be forgiven.

In operating professional services; \$1,750,000 total, \$1,425,000 for amendments 2 and 3 on Black & Veatch (they oversee the company water treatment plant chlorine improvements). \$250,000 for water line replacement design, and \$75,000 for waterline modeling.

Chair Tollett thanked Dir Pileski and said that many of these projects were discussed during the course of this year.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if we're going to change how we're going to do the storm water billing?

Dir Pyanowski said they had to put that on the back burner because they are currently working on implementing late fee charges. But, that is going to be a focus for next year, about how to do that billing.

Dir Pileski brought up the matter of the FBI training facility which will be included in the temporary, that amount is 2.7 million and it will run through the general fund, but it will be paid by the Federal FBI.

There is \$300,000 included in for the Ford Road slope failure and \$1,450,000 for urban paving of SR 57 and Abbe Rd N., and a loan will be applied for, for those projects.

Chair Tollett asked if we had that portion of Ford Road was already re-stabilized? Unless this is a different area of Ford Road?

Engineer Schneider said that they stabilized the area by the curve, closer to the bridge a few years ago. It's called soil nails. This current project is closer to West River and across from the old Golden Corral.

Mrs. Siwierka asked if we're going to have to wait for the 2.7 million from the Federal government for the FBI training facility?

Dir Pileski said the payment for that project is set up that we incur the expense and then we will be reimbursed.

Mr. Stewart said Engineer Schneider is here to add anything or answer any questions on any of these projects or any other projects. He can discuss some of the highlights of those projects that he's been a part of.

Engineer Schneider said Fin Dir Pileski actually gave detailed and accurate information on these upcoming engineering projects.

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

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for approval of the temporary appropriations for the first three months of the calendar year 2026.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Note: Additional copies of the handouts of the 2026 Temporary Appropriations which were handed out at this Finance meeting are available upon request.*

Chair Tollett said that is all the business of this evening's Finance Meeting and he asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:45 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**That concluded this evening's meetings.**

***The Next Finance Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.***

Respectfully Submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant