

The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a meeting on Monday, March 9th, 2026 beginning at 6:23 P.M.

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Tollett, Cerra, Schneider, Van Wormer, Davis
COM DEV PRESENT: Chair Schneider, Mitchell, Rothgery, Doehne, Lipian
OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Oswald
EXCUSED ABSENCE: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski, Mayor Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Engineer Schneider, Parks Dir Reardon, Public Works Supt Conner, CD Director A. Scott, CD Manager Almabayyed, Fire Chief Varga

1. The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting, which took place on February 23rd, 2026, as circulated on Feb. 26th, 26. Motion made by Mr. Cerra and seconded by Mr. Schneider to approve the 'said' Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of entering into a contract with ODOT for improvements to SR-57 (Chestnut Ridge to Cleveland St.) and Abbe Road, N (SR-57 to Sheffield), for pavement repairs, asphalt/concrete resurfacing, curbs and curb ramps, guardrail upgrades, traffic signal upgrades and pavement markings.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said they have applied for a SIB Loan for an urban paving project. They need authorization from Council to allow the Mayor to enter into a contract with ODOT to finalize the project and move forward with the bidding process. This is resurfacing RT 57 from Chestnut Ridge to Cleveland St., it's urban paving which is essentially the top layer and intermediate as needed. This is also for Abbe Rd., N, from RT 57 to the Sheffield Corp line. This is an ODOT maintenance paving/urban paving and it's one of the last projects they're going to be doing. After this, they will push these projects onto the cities.

Mr. Van Wormer asked what the timeframe would be like in regards to traffic flow?

Engineer Schneider said since this is only an inch and a half of paving, they plan on doing it this summer and it will be done pretty quick, essentially sometime during a three-month period in the summertime.

Mr. Schneider asked about the pedestrian projects at Abbe and Burns, will those overlap?

Engineer Schneider said because ODOT is involved in both projects, they've already carved those pedestrian things out in that area and that project won't happen until next year.

Mr. Oswald asked if we have matching for this project and second; the last project on Abbe Road, there were issues and he was notified by residents with complaints, he's hoping there won't be any issues?

Engineer Schneider said urban paving is an 80/20 split. There are some items that ODOT won't cover and will be our cost. Of the 80/20 split, our portion is roughly 1.5 million, which we borrowed 1.45 million from the SIB Loan for this. The overall project is roughly 4 million. Per Mr. Oswald's concern, the manholes will be adjusted, it's a matter of the contractor doing a good job.

Mr. Oswald also mentioned about the traffic light which was up at Stafford & Abbe for a while. He would like to see that come back, but, he assumes that won't happen.

Mr. Tollett asked if there is a potential with the rising cost of oil to cause the black top cost to rise?

Engineer Schneider said that they are anticipating a 5% inflationary cost because asphalt is oil based.

Mrs. Rothgery asked if they will be doing the complete intersections on RT 57 and also asked if signage will be added?

Engineer Schneider said he didn't have the information as to how far back they are going at those intersections and he will get back with the committee. And anything that is milled will have new pavement markings. Signage is not an item that would be eligible for ODOT cost, we would pay for it.

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. Van Wormer to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into 'said' contract with ODOT for 'said' improvements.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. 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 accounts that was approved by the resolution board last week, in the amount of \$6,098.92. The list consists of final bills that have not been paid when the resident moved out and one multi-unit.

Mrs. Davis asked about McDonalds?

Supt Conner said it's been sold and corporate has not paid the final bill yet.

Mr. Lipian said the sale is to another McDonalds franchisee.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Schneider to authorize a Resolution authorizing the 'said' accounts to be certified to the LC Auditor's Office.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of City property (Parks & Rec Dept.) which is unfit for City use and to be disposed of by the best means possible.

Referred By: Public Works Supervisor R. Eye

Dir Pyanowski said this baseball field painter became obsolete when they purchased the robot painter last year so they want to sell this obsolete piece of equipment.

Chair Tollett said the money the City took in last year by selling equipment and vehicles we didn't need was around \$200,000 and he thanked Dir Pyanowski.

Mr. Oswald asked how the process of selling equipment works?

Dir Pyanowski said that each department does not do it themselves. Most of the equipment gets referred by Rodney Eye at CMG and the referral will go to council if it's in excess of \$1,000. Once council approves it, it will go to Matt Eichenlaub at EPD, who takes care of getting it onto Gov Deals and keeps track of the sales.

Mrs. Mitchell asked Dir Pyanowski what they will do with the old playground equipment at West Park?

Dir Pyanowski said they talked about if any of the equipment was salvageable to repair at East Rec, but they are uniquely designed so we weren't able to do that.

Dir Reardon said there was one slide they were going to try to salvage since it wasn't very old. It would fit on the older system at East Park. The rest will be scrapped as much as they can. The new playground is currently being installed.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if there will be playground equipment at the old Oakwood School? Dir Reardon said, no there are no plans for that.

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

Motion made by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Van Wormer to authorize a Resolution declaring the 'said' equipment unfit and an ordinance to dispose of 'said' equipment by the best means possible.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of the 2026 Permanent Appropriations, (2026 Budget).

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell [*Standing Referral*]. [Tabled on 2/23/26]

Chair Tollett said Don Rothgery, who passed over the weekend was on City Council for many years and was Chair of the Finance Committee and he asked the everyone to keep him and his family in their thoughts as we pass the city budget this evening.

Finance Dir Pileski said there have been a few changes since it was discussed two weeks ago. He dug into the budget in the General Fund and was able to lower the appropriation by \$1,453,500.

The bulk of that was 1.2 million which was included in the 2.7 million appropriated for the FBI Firing Range, that was the total cost of the project, but, we've already paid one million out of the General Fund last year and we're still waiting to be paid by the FBI.

The remaining \$253,500 was across the board and looking at operating costs of some of the departments, he was able to cut that \$253,000. Two weeks ago, the budget was at \$50,078,470 and now it's down to \$48,624,970.

The administration approached him to say they would like to do additional crack sealing. Estimated cost for additional crack sealing is \$100,000 and approximately \$60,000 of that would be in overtime and benefits and the \$40,000 for materials so he bumped up street construction maintenance to \$51,000 for O/T and remaining \$9,500 for fringe benefits associated with payroll and he put the \$40,000 for the materials into the 2016 half percent income tax street repair fund.

They also bumped up the 2016 half percent income tax street repair department and capital outlay by \$150,000 for the local share of US 20, RT 57 and RT 301 project. And an additional increase of \$215,000 to 2016 half percent income tax street repair to bring the 2026 residential street resurfacing program up to a total of 2.3 million. Those are the changes that happened since the budget was first discussed.

Chair Tollett thanked Dir Pileski and asked if there were questions.

Mr. Doehne said he looked at the difference from the estimated value to what we're actually spending and Dir Pileski mentioned that we could eventually run out and asked if we're putting any plans in place on maybe slowing down spending, because we're looking at about 8 to 10 million more than what we're actually bringing in.

Dir Pileski said they are keeping an eye on it. He has indicated to the administration that he doesn't think we should be replacing safety forces as they retire, we should be keeping an eye on overtime. A lot of this is happening because we hired additional safety forces with ARPA money, the ARPA money is gone and those employees are now in the general fund. That is 11 safety force employees which is about 1.2 to 1.3 a year with benefits. And we did the 15% pay increase to attract and maintain police officers and that led to additional pay raises for all the other departments and we had the salary study and now, we will have the extra pay this year. The combination of all of these have put us in this situation. He is still holding additional monies that are in the police and fire pension funds that can be used next year if we run into a problem. We are not going in a good direction and we can't make cuts to employees when we still have several million in the bank, but, it's going fast.

Mr. Doehne thanked Dir Pileski for that information and asked if proactively, would we want to look at a hiring freeze or holding off on major purchases for a while. He's just concerned and wondering what will happen next year, he mentioned these thoughts as possible suggestions.

Dir Pileski said, as far as a hiring freeze, it's not up to him, but, any way we can save money, would be a good thing.

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

Motion made by Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Cerra to authorize an ordinance authorizing the Permanent Appropriations for the year 2026 annual budget.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Tollett thanked Dir Pileski for this budget.

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. Van Wormer and second by Mr. Schneider to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:50 P.M.

MOTION CARRIES

That concluded this evening's meetings.

The Next Finance Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 30th, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant