

Finance Committee
Monday, March 23, 2020
6:00 p.m., Rotunda

In attendance: J. Coyne - Chairman, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, and J. Shields. B. Lamb, D. Simpson and J. Hazeltine

Also present: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Keith Dirham, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Jonathan Mendel, Jansen Wehrley, Teresa Knox, Dan Gladish, Chief Kinney and Allison.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action

2. Executive Session: (contract negotiations / imminent litigation)

It was moved by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Simpson to enter into Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. for the purposes of Conferences with the City's Law Director concerning disputes involving the City which are the subject of pending or imminent court action preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employees. Motion passed by the yea votes of J. Coyne, J. Hazeltine, E. Heffinger, B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, and D. Simpson.

Finance committee reconvened at 6:51 p.m.

3. 20-058-3/23 – Budget Amendment

Accept Donation from Medina Early childhood PTA. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

4. 20-059-3/23 – Adopt Residential Code Update

Mr. Gladish stated this RCA and the next are because the State adopted new code requirements and they are required to follow and enforce their codes. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

5. 20-060-3/23 – Adopt NFPA 70 – National Electrical Code Update

Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. 20-061-3/23 – Authorize Law Director to Prepare Documentation to Transfer Land to Medina CIC

Mr. Coyne stated this is to transfer the land on Route 18 by Commerce Drive and Branch Rd. to the CIC and they need to market it to sell it. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

7. 20-062-3/23 – Amend Ord. 129-17 – Fire Service Contract with Medina Twp.

Mayor Hanwell stated the existing fire contract had an expiration date midyear. Request is to extend the expiration of the contract for a full year ending 12/31/2020. In the RCA there was a typo error on second to last sentence it says "as well as to prevent the Finance Department it

should say as well as permit the Finance Department”. Medina Township Trustees are in agreement with this and will pay the full bill after city council approves and amends the contract. Mr. Shields moved to amend the fire service contract to 12/31/20, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 20-063-3/23 - Rezone 205 S. Prospect from R-3 to P-F

Planning Commission recommended to rezone 205 S. Prospect Street from R-3 High Density Residential to P-F, Public Facilities. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

9. 20-064-3/23 – State Bid Purchase – 2020 Malibu for Police Department

Chief Kinney stated this is a state bid purchase of a 2020 Malibu from Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora to replace a 2009 detective/undercover car with 140,000 miles on it. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

10. 20-065-3/23 – Agreement w/Ohio Regional Development Corp – PY20 CHIP

Jonathon Mendel stated this is to have Ohio Regional Development Corp to be our consultant for administration of the CHIP Program. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

11. 20-066-3/23 – PY20 CHIP Program – Partnership Agreement w/City of Brunswick

Mr. Mendel stated they have been in partnership with the City of Brunswick for the last 2 cycles and it improves chances of getting more CHIP grant money. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

12. 20-067-3/23 – Mandate Direct Deposit for City Paychecks

Mr. Dirham stated this is a continuity issue especially with the Covid-19 epidemic they’ve been looking at this if check stock was not available. Mayor Hanwell stated mandating employees to go with direct deposit is not something that has been negotiated with the unions. They don’t have to agree but need to be consulted. It was suggested that the finance director do a check stuffer to advise of the limitations of the paper checks and encourage, not mandate, the use of direct deposit and the Mayor agrees. Mr. Huber stated he is not in favor of this request, he does not want to give his checking account numbers to the city or anyone, for that matter anything to do with his bank numbers, too many opportunities to hack information. Mr. Coyne stated he always thought it was a little heavy handed for the Government to tell you what to do and if there is an option you could take it but there is a risk with that option. If they can sign something acknowledging that they don’t want to do direct deposit and they take the risk of not getting a paper check if something happens. Mr. Huber stated there are already rules statutorily about protections in terms of acts of god or acts of emergency where the government has to respond in an emergency and there’s inconvenience but he feels this request does not rise to that level and feels we don’t have that kind of situation yet.

Mr. Dirham stated that the City of Brunswick and Wadsworth are able to do this and we are too, it just takes cooperation in making it happen. Keith understands meeting with the unions and doesn’t feel it would be a difficult conversation to explain this is about making sure we can maintain continuity of payment of your members. It’s a conversation we should have and he would like to have the cooperation to move forward with that and make it across the board for the non-union employees now. John is in favor of it not being mandated. Keith stated they have over 50 employees still on paper checks. Mr. Simpson asked if monies are more readily

available before the paper checks. Keith stated yes generally.

Mr. Lamb stated maybe some people don't have an account with a bank and feels we should not force people unless we do this through union negotiation. Mr. Rose stated he has not received a paper check since 1995 and agrees with Mr. Coyne and Mr. Simpson to try and encourage and offer the option because there is a cost saving to the city.

Mr. Shields stated they did find that some did not have a checking account and they had to go and help some with setting things up and used it as a learning experience.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated there was a long time about a period of ten years when she was younger where she was on check systems and could not open a checking account if she wanted to, she feels you can't mandate direct deposit because for some it simply is not an option. . She agrees with encouraging people. Mr. Coyne feels Keith is getting the message that everybody here encourages it but does not want to mandate it at least not at this time. Mr. Coyne stated maybe we can move in that direction of encouraging and revisit.

Mayor stated if Keith would like to put together something for a paper stuffer he and Mr. Huber would like to review it.

13. 20-068-3/23 – 2019 Carryforward

Mr. Dirham stated these are the unspent funds from 2019. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

14. 20-069-3/23 – Cooperative Purchase Agreement – ODOT Sodium Chloride

Mr. Piccoli stated this is the annual request to participate in the state bid for rock salt, return of April 24th and that is why we are requesting emergency clause. Mr. Rose asked what was left, Nino stated we have 800 tons left from this year. We are asking for 3,000 tons. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

15. 20-070-3/23 – Amend Ord. 4-20 – Bids for 2020 Concrete Pavement General Service

Mr. Patton stated this was previously approved, when we were finished putting together the program for this year we were up about 50% in terms of volume which corresponds to an increase in cost. Requesting an additional \$60,000 for a total of \$160,000. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

16. 20-071-3/23 – Bids – Job #1045 Public Square Mid-Block Crossing

Mr. Patton stated they got a grant through the Economic Development Department and it is a safety upgrade for four midblock crossings through the square. Total of \$106,000 cost and grant will pay 2/3 of cost. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

17. 20-072-3/23 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – CT Consultants – Water Dept.

Master plan to update the city's water model that was done previously in 2006 and 2012 it should be done every 5 to 6 years so we are a little behind. It will reflect the changes made through various waterline projects, assess the impact of the upcoming route 18 project as well as with the asset management coming from the EPA. This will put us in compliance and accordance with that mandate. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

18. 20-073-3/23 – Police collective Bargaining Agreement Fact Finder Report

Mayor Hanwell stated the Fact finder Report came out last week on March 16th and we have 7 days to accept or reject it. It has been accepted by two of the three police unions, the third is the Dispatch group and they haven't met yet to take any action on it. Same wage package and healthcare package that was presented and accepted by the Teamsters. There was a slight raise in shift differential, slight change for officer that serves in place of a sergeant, and if someone is called in to work holiday that they would have been off they will get double time. Added was an annual stipend for those that have a 2 year college degree in criminal justice, a 4 year degree in anything and they will be provided same stipend for those who have served in the military for three or more years, not to be compounded. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

19. 20-074-3/23 – REMOVED from agenda per Law Director

Removed

20. 20-075-3/23 – Waive Section 31.09 of the Salary & Benefits Code

Mr. Piccoli stated he appreciated council considering this and with the emergency clause. A number of employees have been working on this for a service employee that has 29 years and 8 months in and has a medical condition that will not allow come back and he would be retiring in end of June 2020. Nino is proposing to waive the salary and benefit code that requires a 40 hour paycheck per week. The proposal is to pay the employee with his time earned of 25 hours per week from vacation and time saved up to secure the pension credit.

Mr. Huber feels we should try to honor our employees and help him at a time when he is having difficulty. He checked to make sure that this allows him the flexibility and joins Nino in asking to pass this.

Mayor Hanwell explained the process stating this is nobody else's hours, we are not loaning him hours. This is just taking care of someone that is two months from retirement status. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

21. 20-076-3/23 – New Fund – Pandemic Relief

Mrs. Hazeltine stated they originally wanted to establish a new fund for pandemic relief to assure our citizens that we would have money should any of the vulnerable population needs assistance during this time. Right now all of the agencies that we have spoken with have said they need volunteers. Jessica is challenging everyone to reach out to agencies such as Faith in Action, and Cups Café. We established we don't actually need to create a new fund or line item, what we will do is as issues arrive and agencies do need help, we have the ability to just immediately approve an expenditure out of the general fund to assist these agencies.

Mr. Coyne stated that this is for city residents, they are the ones that contributed into the income tax and paid fees related to it. We were trying to work with \$25,000.00, it depends on the situation at the time. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

There being no further business before the Finance Committee, meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

John M. Coyne, Chairman