

Finance Committee
Monday, July 13th, 2020
5:30 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, and Kathy Patton

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action
2. 20-078-4/13 – Consider How to Handle Disconnects After Ord. 62-20 Expires

Mr. Dirham stated they are going to allow payment plans for everyone, they are extending the suspension and disconnections and waving penalties for those months.

Mr. Coyne stated they need clarification for council on disconnects and the payment of the \$25 credit at the end of the term.

Discussion they had was if an individual customer misses a scheduled repayment of a deferred payment do they automatically lose the \$25 credit at the end.

Keith stated that is was his understanding from the last meeting that they are going to get the \$25 so long as they didn't get shut off during the period of the repayment. Keith asked for clarification as to whether they are basing this on notice list or basing on the actual turn of the wrench. In this case they are only going to be one month behind if they get on the shut off list. Meaning they will be on the shutoff list if they miss one payment.

Mr. Shields feels it is still when you turn the wrench because again in a normal situation they can call Keith and say I got the disconnect notice, but Keith would give them the week to get that money in still.

Mr. Coyne asked if everybody was ok with that and the Finance Committee agreed. Penalties will not apply to the payment plan amount. If the account is terminated they have to pay the full amount.

Keith stated if they are shutoff the way that is worded, the payment plan is terminated, which means they'd have to pay everything to get turned back on so is that what we want to do?

Mr. Simpson still feels the biggest thing that they have to emphasize is they have to be in contact with the Finance Department, it's not going to do away with their penalties it may not prevent them from being shut off unless some other mandate comes out but he feels we need to work with these customers.

Keith reminded everyone that there are agencies available that can help with payments but they have to contact the Finance Department first, he doesn't want to have to mail that information

out. They need to be in contact.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated there are several points to add here. Councilmen Rose quoted the 12 step program evidence based practice shows that the instance that he uses in example is not true and not effective so it would not be the case when it comes to this as well, so it was an ineffective analogy in all extends.

Jessica stated she has a comment from a constituent just now, it says water policy right now should be paid what you can for x amount of time, keep track and make it like medical bills.

Mr. Coyne stated we really can't do that because we have to pay our water bills, we have an obligation to pay as a city and we want to treat everybody fairly and that is why we are saying you have a year to pay it back and you get on a plan. Is everybody ok with multiple shutoffs and still being on the plan or do you just want to do one time? That is the question.

Finance agreed to go with 2 times on the shutoff list.

Mr. Shields moved to approve as modified, Mr. Simpson seconded. Motions passed 7-0.

3. 20-135-6/22 – Resolution against Racism

Mr. Coyne stated he spoke with Pamela Miller in addition finance offered some suggestions to her. They came up with a modified resolution. Mr. Coyne's only additional comment was that if we are going to limit it to racism to a specific group of people, he would just have the title saying declaring African American racism because there is racism that is amongst a lot of different groups of people. It looks to him like this is focused on the African American race in general it is not being declared as a public health crisis, not all people that are being discriminated against. Jess and Dennie feel that adding that to the title solves the entire problem.

Bill Lamb stated Pam brought this to us for a specific reason, a lot of communities have passed it because they recognize that a porthole has opened up in this country. Where people finally recognized and began to really take a deeper look at the issues that African American people have with systematic racism.

Mrs. Hazeltine asked Mrs. Miller as purposed to cover when people want it to be more inclusive out of those minorities is the black population more effected by systemic racism than other minorities?

Mrs. Miller stated that she thinks you could say yes it is and also feels the title is probably not as important as what the content of this is. Black Americans have been discriminated against intensely and that they are at this point probably in the worst situation but we know that brown people have issues so by talking about people of color but by also specifically calling out African Americans, she thinks it really just covers what you want it to cover. Leaving it this way and just calling it racism as opposed to specific racism is the better way to go.

Mr. Coyne stated that it brings more attention to the whole issue of we are talking about the African Americans in the title itself because people just read titles mainly, some people don't read the ordinances and this will draw their attention to what we are talking about.

Mr. Rose questioned what health citation are we going to base this on? From which Department of Health, US Health, Ohio Health, any medical basis?

Pam Miler replied this would be Federal as well as State statistics.

Mr. Rose stated then he thinks those should be included.

Mr. Coyne explained what it means is that if a Federal Program of Medicaid if something is designated as a public health emergency, their given different treatment than everybody else, because the class of people are disproportionately affected. The way this ordinance would work is that the federal government would look at it and Medicaid would be impacted by it by saying look we have a problem because the people in our community are disproportionately affected because of their color.

Mr. Huber expressed his thoughts on this and he had the same question, it's a public health crisis and so his question is what does that mean as we have difficulty amongst a group of people agreeing on what racism is and we have difficulty agreeing on what a public health crisis is. What do the public health officials have to say about this because again it is a resolution it is not binding, we don't need to beat it to death but if we are passing a resolution placing responsibility on public health officials for this situation #1 what is it?

Mayor Hanwell stated even though it is a resolution it is not a law, the fact that it is a public record puts us all on notice that this is what we are saying and he is not pleased with the last sentence that says understands that ongoing anti-bias and sensitivity training *must* occur; we can't take 10% out of every department budget and then have to bring in 24/7 officers and pay overtime for training because of a resolution that we passed.

Mr. Coyne reiterated that this is a resolution and has no binding authority on any officer here or any municipal, it's just a statement of our beliefs, and our police department already does this on an ongoing basis.

Mayor Hanwell stated part of it is a policy review, part of it is through in-service training and some time the State will mandate them. In the same respect there may come a time that it doesn't occur for a period of time, if the council passes this unanimously and it says the word "must" then that is telling him that you all believe that we must do it. Mayor Hanwell doesn't feel that is the appropriate word in that *WHEREAS*.

Bill Lamb feels that you must do it and Mrs. Hazeltine agrees, stating that if we are having this kind of debate over a resolution he is not sure what message we are sending if we are going to argue about this issue of racism with the African American community that we can sit down and pick it apart word for word when it has no weight of law but it is something we intend we would hope that we have resolved could go forward to improve these folks lives and here we are debating word for word.

Bill feels we should either table it now and send that message or determine that probably in its initial form it could have been passed and serve the same purpose or vote on it now and pass it now. One of those things we should do but the message we are sending now is a negative message to the community that we are trying to address.

Jessica Hazeltine read a statement to clarify what constitutes a public health crisis:
A public health crisis is a difficult situation or a complex health system that affects humans in one

or more geographical areas. So from a particular locality to encompass the entire planet. Health crisis's generally have significant impacts on community health, loss of life and on the economy. Jessica feels they all can agree that African American racism falls under all those things, and that Mrs. Miller has provided all the evidence we need to do the right thing by acknowledging that we as a city are committed to moving forward in the fashion that we already are, we already have our diversity training, and feels that "must" is too powerful of a word.

Mr. Coyne feels we are just saying that we must continue to do what we are doing. Maybe the clarification should be training must continue to occur, because we are already doing it. What he is hearing is we change it to African American in the title and in the one section that the Mayor brought up: must *continue* to occur.

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

4. 20-145-7/13 – Budget Amendments:

a) Accept Check from Firestorm Gear – Police Dept.

Mr. Dirham stated this is a pass through. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

b) Accept Check for Mountain Bike Trails

Mr. Dirham stated this is a pass through. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

c) #2020-14 – Appropriation to Insure Community Service Probationers

Keith stated this is in fund 164, court fund for probation services they collect this money in court costs and they want to be able to use it. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

d) #2020-13 – Accept Check from York Risk Services Group for Traffic Signals

Keith stated this is for damage for the traffic signals. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

5. 20-146-7/13 – CIT Support and Expansion Project One Time Stipend – Police

Chief Kinney stated that this is their crisis intervention training they recently acquired a grant to enhance the program. In part enhancing assigning a liaison. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. 20-147-7/13 – Increase Exp. – Absolute Construction (CHIP Home Repair)

Mr. Mendel stated this is for finance approval only, went to BOC for \$15,000 for CHIP project in Brunswick and it came to \$15,200 so they need approval for the additional \$200. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

7. 20-148-7/13 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – Sandridge Job Creation Grant Payment

Mrs. Marshall stated dollar amount is \$22,500. They have met all their requirements. This would be the fifth payment of a 7 year grant agreement and as a reminder the Job Creation Grant payments are funded through our non-income tax generated revenues. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 20-149-7/13 – Purchase 2021 Mack Front Loader – Sanitation

Mr. Piccoli stated he originally submitted this request in February in conjunction with the OEPA grant with the hope of receiving that but unfortunately the OEPA grant has been suspended for this year and possibly next. Bell Equipment communicated with us that through the National Bid we could purchase a 2019 truck for \$3,055 cheaper and delivery date would be this September. Nino is asking council to authorize this. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

9. 20-150-7/13 – CARES Act Funding

Kimberly Marshal stated this is for council's consideration as they are either receiving or have received funding through the CARES Act coming down from the Federal to the State to the County. If there are any of those funds remaining after the expenses have been looked at would council consider setting up a small business grant fund to help our City of Medina businesses. Looking into implementing a program county wide that they could just tap into so everybody is using the same format, same forms, and same criteria. County Commissioners' will be reviewing the items that they put together and will know more if they are onboard after meeting tomorrow.

Keith stated they don't have a total on what the city has spent on COVID related expenditures. Kimberly just wants to know today if council would consider further discussion after council break.

Council was in agreement with further discussion.

10. 20- 151-7/13 – Accept Donation from Tempur Sealy – Face Masks

Mrs. Marshal stated this request is to accept donation of 210 cloth face masks from Tempur Sealy valued at \$1,050.00. They converted a portion of manufacturing operation to make the face masks and felt the need to help the city during the pandemic. Mr. Coyne asked if we are going to use them in City Hall or can we give some of them to our local businesses if they want them and are we permitted to do that?

Mayor Hanwell feels it best that we should ask Tempur Sealy if they are ok with sharing to the local businesses first. The Service Director shared with Kimberly that our stock has begun to lower as well, we had quite a bit at the onset and the opportunity to get them is seeming to dwindle as COVID continues. Mr. Shields moved to accept the donation, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

11. 20-152-7/13 – Accept Donations from Alchem Inc. – Hand Sanitizer

Mrs. Marshal stated this donation of hand sanitizer is valued at \$698.00, consisting of 100 - 12oz. bottles and 2 gallon bottles and some was used for our partnering with Main Street for Farmer's Market. Mr. Shields moved to accept the donation from Alchem, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

12. Addendum 20-038-5/26 – City Hall Parking Deck Contract Adjustment

Mr. Patton stated they submitted 3 different change orders that we have been working with the contractor on for the parking deck, noting that they have actually had received 7 from them, there are still 4 that we are not prepared to submit yet due to still reviewing/discussing with them.

First one is the covered walkway between the parking deck and the City Hall Building, they are offering a credit of \$24,000 to non-perform that.

Second one we have discussed before in Finance Committee about the detention system, their cost to relocate to east side of lot we felt was excessive. Discussed a credit for them to non-perform that with the idea that the city would do this after the fact. They are offering a credit of \$58,500.00.

The third one is an addition of a little over \$9,000 for extra conduit, the city requested 8 additional security cameras, we were due 20 cameras but the Police department and IT looked at it and wanted 28 and so there is an additional cost to install the extra conduit. A reduction in the contract is recommended in the amount of \$73,428.32.

Mr. Coyne asked if the other 4 items are an increase of the contract price. Patrick stated 3 of the other 4 are increases. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

13. 20-153-7/13 – Security Cameras – City Hall Parking Deck

Mr. Patton stated per contract we were due 20 cameras, IT and the Police Dept. requested 8 additional. Proposal from CPS to adjust contract was excessive. Asking council to authorize the Mayor to accept the proposal from i2c Technologies to purchase and install twenty eight (28) security cameras for the city hall parking deck. Estimated cost \$26,000. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

14. 20- 154-7/13- Bids, 2020 Concrete Pavement Joint Sealing – Job #1068

Mr. Patton stated this is an annual project and the crack sealant will extend the life of the pavement. In the past couple of years we have requested \$75,000, we are reducing that to \$50,000 just in the interest of trying to save that 10%. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

15. 20-155-7/13 – Grant Application with OPWC

Mr. Patton stated that this is their annual project through the OPWC, typically the application is due at the end of August and we submit it to council on the last meeting before summer break with the idea of passing it at first meeting upon returning from break. Right now this program is in limbo at least for this year, it may be a reduced program, typically get about \$450,000 to \$550,000 a year. It was suggested we continue to do the application and be ready for whatever happens. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

16. 20-156-7/13 – Mask Mandate Ordinance

Mr. Heffinger stated they were not going to do the mask mandate ordinance, it has been replaced in the agenda with the resolution. The numbers in Ohio are going up pretty quickly for COVID numbers. Hospitalizations are also on the rise. Our Governor has decided he is not going to do the mask mandate for our state, he decided it would be a city responsibility to create a mask mandate. Eric's goal was to bring it here and to bring the attention of the entire city that we need to address this problem ourselves because our governor left it to us, the buck stops here.

After talking with Council, citizens, the Medina County Health Director and the Mayor, the overall purpose of this was not to start a civil war but to get more people involved and get a strong message from the city behind it that yes we agree this is the right thing to do. If we could get 4 out of 5 people to wear a mask when they are in a public space this doesn't mean everywhere it just means when you are around other people, that we could drastically lower our numbers and this is important because our local businesses can't handle another shutdown. We are also

about to go back to school, schoolboards are meeting and they are making these decisions on how our students should handle this.

A stronger piece would be to get the whole county of Medina behind us. In working with the Mayor, we reached out to Brunswick, Wadsworth and the County Commissioners and all have come to an agreement that the county needs a unified message that we should stop the county from going red, if we go red that is when the Governor sweeps in and makes all masks mandated. Plus it could be a criminal penalty of \$750 or even time in jail. We need to stay open as much as possible and that means we all have to sacrifice a little bit.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated it was her understanding after talking with Chief Kinney that should a business choose to put up a sign in their business that says you must wear a face mask to enter this business that if they are asked to leave because they refuse to wear a mask it then becomes a matter of trespassing at which time they can call the Police Department.

Mayor Hanwell spoke on the PR piece will be put on all the cities and counties and the Health Department's websites, twitters, newsletters and Facebook, all of those things. If the business wants to print that and put it on their doors, if they business wants to create their own poster.

Chief Kinney stated they received some guidance from the Governor's office via the Ohio Chiefs Association indicating that the primary enforcement agency will be the county health department. They are recommending that people not to call people department, if we do turn red or any county that is red and there is a mask mandate not to call the 911 or the police department to refer those calls to the health commissioner.

Mr. Heffinger states section 10 of this resolution says in keeping with the City of Medina's community spirit and welcoming atmosphere, all individuals that visit our Historic Square and patronize our businesses, are strongly encouraged to be kind to one another. This was included in here because we have a lot of businesses here in town that have put this notice up and have been harassed by it. Though most people that come through respect that. Then there are some businesses in town that said they wanted to put that up but are afraid to because they might lose business and they are already hurting for business right now.

Mr. Simpson congratulated Eric for working with the Mayor and the Law Director and changing it from a mandate to a resolution.

Mr. Lamb feels Eric was very direct and specifically interested in health and the fact that he was willing to make an adjustment to your initial idea, take all these things into consideration and meet with the Mayor and others and work this out, it speaks very highly of you.

Kelly Parks, owner of the dance studio behind City Hall stated that September will mark her 19th year as a business owner in the city. In light of the controversy and the chaos surrounding the pandemic and the subsequent mandates, protocols, guidelines and laws that have been enacted as we reopen our businesses and activities, she felt it was important to take a moment to share her voice with you. Kelly expressed it was frightening to her that council would consider this possible mandate to wear masks. Her business can't assume the responsibility as the COVID police in regards to wearing masks. She should not fear the backlash of social media bullying when a member of the community sees or assumes something they don't agree with or presume that we are doing wrong because of an expectation that you have set. Every customer to her is

valuable she doesn't get to choose who she lets in or keeps out.

The small ma and pa shops in this community are left to suffer the consequences and clean up the mess as we play sheriff to the mask debates. You have no business creating laws or recommending protocols that will inevitably become the responsibility of every business in town to negotiate with their customers. Kelly stated she already had the right to put a sign on her business door and say mask or no mask. It doesn't matter what her personal opinion is about this that is not why she is here. She is here because council is insinuating in that now has put her business in the spot light for everyone that agrees or disagrees with her about this and that is frustrating to her as a business owner. It's hard enough to run her business.

Chris Paulino, resident of Medina also Army veteran. When mandate came out he was against it. Feels it will be hard for any business in Medina to get back to where they need to be with even 50% occupancy. This won't stop if we are going to mandate mask wearing, social distance, stay at home. This is all hurting medina businesses. Spoke of letting things get back to normal because that is truly what is going to help Medina families. Why did we let this happen in the first place. Chris stated we are picking and choosing what is important. Is there any push back against our governors, against Ohio with everything going on with this pandemic or are we just hey take our rights this is enough for us to give them away.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated that local businesses decided late last night after their employees left to mandate masks in their business.

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

17. 20-157-7/13 – Providing Disposable Facial Coverings for Local Businesses

Mr. Coyne stated if a business would like some masks the city does have COVID funds that the city set up that we use for various purposes such as for food purposes, for utility shutoff.

Nino stated initially when the city first started buying masks here at City Hall they were close to \$100 a box. Now they have become abundant and started coming down in price. Kimberly stated we could check with Tempur Sealy, also through the State of Ohio they put together that PPE resource website.

Mr. Coyne mentioned possibly putting aside \$2,500 and have Kimberly or Nino contact some of the local businesses that make masks to see if we could buy a supply of them.

Mr. Lamb recommended putting aside at least \$5,000 to have as needed. Mayor Hanwell recommended possibly delivering the masks to the businesses. Mr. Shields moved to approve \$5,000, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Patton stated he received notice that the Aviation Grant is being reinstated. We may have to pass some more legislation during Council recess.

There being no further business before the Finance Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

John M. Coyne, Chairman