

Finance Committee
Monday, June 26, 2023
6:00 p.m. Medina City Hall – Council Rotunda

In attendance: J. Coyne – Chairman (7:00 p.m.), J. Shields, B. Lamb, R. Haire, P. Rose, D. Simpson and J. Hazeltine

Also present: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Nino Piccoli, Keith Dirham, Patrick Patton, Sgt. Zaremba, Jarrod Fry, Jansen Wehrley, Kevin Hutchinson, Hub Marquis (SPCA), Steve Hambley, Rick & Tammy Kirby, Cindy Lastuka, Sarah Crawford, Mike Huff, Angela (MSM), Ashley Owens (SPCA), Andrew Dutton, Chief Kinney, Dan Gladish, Shannon Rhine, and Kathy Patton.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action
2. Presentation – Shannon Rhine, Director – Medina County Public Transit
Microtransit – MCFlex
More transit flexibility and area coverage
Less travel time for passengers
Less fuel consumption
Opportunity to build ridership
Real-time technology trip booking
3. 23-115-6/12 – Medina Meow Fix – Additional Funding Request
Judith Pflaum – trapper that works with Medina Meow Fix

Mr. Simpson stated that Keri Huff provided the numbers for her fundraisers but he specifically requested numbers of funding from other municipalities, Townships and Villages.

Jessica Hazeltine stated it's been debated on what the SPCA role is on taking care of feral cats. What is their policy on feral cats?

Ashley Owens the Director from the SPCA stated their mission is technically they do not take feral cats, only sick or if injured - each case is different. SPCA takes in over 1,300 cats a year county wide. Ashley does feel that having the Medina Meow Fix program has been helpful.

Bill Lamb feels it is a blessing to have a group of people that are concerned about a community wide issue with feral cats.

Mr. Shields asked if there were any scenarios where you could run the money through the SPCA, if we were to give more money?

Mr. Huber stated he has never been in favor of City Council giving money to a 501c3. The problem you get into is this is taxpayer money and you are supposed

to have a criteria by which you decide what individual you are going to give money to or what group you are going to give money to or not give money to. When we did this through the SPCA he was very comfortable because the SPCA is a quasi-governmental entity. If the SPCA works out an arrangement with the Medina Meow Fix, we don't get into this problem where we are giving money to a group that is basically a group of private individuals.

Giving to one and not another with no criteria puts us into a corner.

Ms. Hazeltine doesn't see a reason for it to be funneled through the SPCA, the only reason it was done like that the first time was because Medina Meow Fix hadn't secured their 501c3 yet. The city even donated money to Cups Café in the amount of \$2,500 during the COVID crisis. No one sued us over that.

Bill Lamb stated he thinks it's a fact, in his opinion, it seems like council is basically anti-animal. We're good if we think we get an economic return on our money but for the rest of it, it's not a service we care about.

Mr. Simpson likes Mr. Huber's suggestion and doesn't think it would in any shape or form hurt what Meow Fix is doing. It may be a burden to the SPCA, but if it could be worked out, that may be a solution and he would be in favor.

Mr. Rose stated that the problem has already been stated why the recommended course of action is through the SPCA, simply the group of Medina Meow Fix is a group of volunteers and they don't have processes and procedures in place for everything they do to be sure the tax payer dollars are being spent properly. There are certain requirements, and until those are met, he agrees with the law director. The SPCA does a good job protecting the city dollars, and he will vote in favor of giving Medina Meow Fix additional monies only if it goes through the SPCA.

Mayor Hanwell reiterated that the SPCA is a county wide organization handling animal complaints. The money the City of Medina gives the SPCA stays solely within the City of Medina, and they give the City of Medina a very comprehensive list which is public year after year with addresses and that justifies the money that the city is investing in the SPCA, because they are providing a service that we don't have - an animal control officer.

Ms. Hazeltine feels they should invest some dollars into their effort, there is clearly a gap in services that Medina Meow Fix is fixing for free. They are providing a service just as the SPCA does for us.

Mr. Lamb stated it feels odd to him that we as a government take an organization that is county wide and then a group of citizens that are here that we already donated money to once as a pilot program (through the SPCA) hooked them financially into another organization to distribute their money and to go back to Mainstreet which is an organization that we know the benefit of but that's a return we get economically, and we never raise that question simply because some administrators sit on the Board. We pay those administrators and so an easier solution would be to put a couple administrators on this Board and maybe that would help solve the question. Bill stated none of those people involved with trying

to dissuade the city from a program to bring lethal weapons into the city to shoot deer. That would have been a great place to hook those (40) people in to become part of the help in the city, to want to be on other committees to understand what the city does. None of those people want to come back to the city, none of them want to vote for any of you.

Mr. Huber stated putting administration on the Meow Fix Board and involving the administration with the board and with the record keeping, that probably makes a big difference in trying to justify giving money directly to this organization, so that is another alternative that is a possibility.

Ms. Haire asked if there could be more coordination between the two organizations so that we don't have this continuous back and forth issue about should we or shouldn't we give money. She has seen the benefit and knows that they do a great job, but she is not opposed to tabling this to give review the new recommendations a deeper look.

Mr. Coyne joined in and stated he has been informed of what was discussed and the two ideas of either to table this or vote now, he also had a discussion prior to this meeting with the Law Director from a legal perspective, and was enlightened and has always stated that he has never liked giving money to 501c3's because we are using taxpayer dollars and we are responsible to make decisions. His concern is if you do it for one, everybody will come to our door and want money. John is in favor of using the SPCA as they are part of the governmental entity related to giving money to rather than giving directly to a 501c3. John is not in favor of continuing to donate.

***Tabled until next Finance meeting.

4. 23-123-6/26 – Budget Amendment (#2023-032)
Mr. Dirham stated the first one is a transfer and the others are all moving money around for grants. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.
5. 23-124-6/26 – Fund Transfer Request – Cable TV Fund
Mr. Dirham stated this will match what we did last year for Cable TV. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.
6. 23-125-6/26 – Increase P.O. #23-692 – Huntington Bank – Police Dept.
Chief Kinney stated this is an increase to their original P.O. for their Huntington Bank card. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.
7. 23-126-6/26 – Increase P.O. #23-163 – Roetzel & Andress – Law Dept.
Mr. Huber stated Attorney Brian Moore from Roetzel & Andress is drafting a settlement agreement with Olsen Products and also drafting new agreements with a proposed operator at the airport and more money is needed for payment. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 6-1. John Coyne abstained.

8. 23-127-6/26 – Community Corrections Grant Agreement (CCA) – Muni Court
Cindy Lastuka stated this is a renewal of the grant, and emergency is needed because the grant starts on July 1st and they just received the money. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.
9. 23-128-6/26 – 2024 Tax Budget
Keith Dirham stated this is the State’s first step of the budget process. We submit this to the county and they use it to give us our revenue estimate which is then the maximum amount that we can appropriate in each of these funds. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.
10. 23-129-6/26 – Expenditure – Courthouse Parking Garage – Technology Engr.
Sergeant Zaremba stated this is one of several steps of putting back a camera system in the parking garage behind Common Pleas Court. They went into a joint effort with the County as their partner and will be splitting the cost of this project. This phase is for 44 cameras. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.
11. 23-130-6/26 – Expenditure – Courthouse Parking Garage – Cianci Electric
Sergeant Zaremba stated this is the second phase of that same project and it is getting the conduit to all of the camera locations. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.
12. 23-131-6/26 – MOU between City, Uptown Thirteen Five LLC, and MCDC
Mr. Dutton stated this is for infrastructure improvements to be made by the city and developer listed in Exhibit B provided in the packets. This is being made due to an entity and name change for the developer of the project on West Liberty St. and is subject to the Law Director’s approval.

Mr. Coyne stated we will try and move this through and vote on it of course on Council at the next meeting so that it can get signed and approved with the emergency clause so it can get signed by the developer. We’ve already approved it once, and all we are doing now is approving a change in the name and are going through the process. Mr. Shields moved to approved with the emergency clause, subject to the final approval of the Law Director, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

There being no further business, the Finance Committee adjourned at 7:23 p.m.