

Finance Committee
Monday, June 14, 2021
6:00 p.m. Medina City Hall – Rotunda

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

Also present: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Keith Dirham, Lori Bower, Chief Kinney, Chief Walters, Cindy Lastuka, Dan Gladish, Kimberly Marshall, Kathy Patton, Jonathan Mendel, Jarrod Fry, Rick & Tammy Kirby, Stacy Bonitz, Bob Finnan, and Joe Salzgeber.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action
2. 21-115-6/14 – Budget Amendments

#2021-016 – Miscellaneous Amendments

Lori Bower stated that these are probation adjustments to the budget for purchase orders that have already been approved. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

3. 21-116-6/14 – Approve Variance for 2020 State Audit – Municipal Court

Joe Salzgeber needs council to approve a \$621.00 variance. The State Auditor will typically allow for up to a \$500.00 book/bank variance. The changeover from the old CMI computer software to the new Pioneer Benchmark computer software in mid-2019 created numerous computer and book keeping issues that significantly delayed the transmission of reliable figures to the Ohio Auditor for the annual audit for 2019. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

4. 21-117-6/14 – 2021 Charter Review Recommendations

Stacy Bonitz thanked the Council and Mayor for selecting them to be a part of the Charter Review. They would like to propose an amendment as well as an addition to the City Ordinance. Proposed Charter Amendment to change the Finance Director position to be appointed verses elected. This has been brought to the Charter Review on several occasions.

Stacy stated for the change in the city ordinance that they looked at all the Boards and Commissions that are currently in the ordinance and felt that Emerging Technology Commission would be beneficial to the city so that they could consider any technological changes that the city could consider and then draw from the experience and education of maybe some residents that are a part of that industry.

Mr. Coyne stated he has been a proponent for appointment of the Finance Director position since 2000, and that is just because of his view of government. The last time this was on the ballot was 1965. John stated that 1/3 of the municipalities in the State of Ohio have elected positions and 2/3 is appointed. This language he assumes will have to go through the Law Director first and then through the County Board of Elections to decide of what the language exactly will be provided if it passes council.

Stacy stated that they did provide the Law Director the language ahead of time to review the

draft of it and offer any changes.

Dennie stated he is probably in the minority as he feels strongly that it should be an elected position. A small group of people in the city of Medina have convinced a large number of our residents that this body meets with the administration in secret and we aren't truthful in what we are saying and we are not wise when spending the tax payer's dollars and feels this would be another reason for that same small group to say we are taking away their ability to place whoever they want in the Finance Director position and this is why Dennie probably won't support it.

Jessica Hazeltine questioned if currently the Director of Finance position is the only department head position that is elected. Mr. Coyne stated that is correct.

Mr. Lamb thanked Stacy for their work. Bill stated he is in favor of this proposal. We are three branches government, and in his experience here it has always been evident to him that the Mayor, because we have an elected mayor, and the responsibility for a vast number of services that are all linked directly to financing. He feels having a Finance Director that serves under the Mayor, and appointed by the Mayor would make this municipal business and your expectation that it would run well.

Mr. Rose thanked Stacy and the team and feels they did a real good job bringing this all together.

Paul agrees with John Coyne on this. In his years in the private industry, every corporation that he worked for had an appointed finance director by a committee of some sort and then approved by the Board of Directors. Council is the Board of Directors of the City; the Mayor is the CEO and feels this is the same thing. For those who are concerned about the Director of Finance doing things that are politically motivated, there is one thing that everybody has to keep in mind. There are a set of rules that have to be followed established by the State of Ohio as far as accounting goes. Paul stated he hopes Keith Dirham will be the first one to apply for it if this goes forward, and hopes he wins the election coming up.

Mr. Shields also thanked Stacy and stated they appreciate the work of the committee which is a great group cross section of residents. Jim stated he does support bringing this to the voters.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated that currently there is a very specific set of qualifications that our Finance Director needs to have, so if we change that to an appointed position would that remain in place or would it be at the Mayor's discretion what the qualifications are?

Stacy stated they would recommend that those are still qualifications that they would follow and thinks that's what bringing the audit committee within there made up of accountants would know that they are qualified based on their education/resume they bring forward.

John spoke on the members of Council and the Audit committee that it isn't a majority of both committees combined, it is a majority of each separate committee.

Kathy Patton stated that the Audit Committee is appointed all by Council.

Mr. Huber stated so this needs to be changed to say in order to be clear, a majority of the members of Council and a majority of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Huber stated that council needs to think about that because that gives a lot of power to the Audit Committee that other committees don't really have. Frankly, it may be better if the audit committee makes a recommendation but Council makes the call. That is typically how these matters are handled. Mrs. Hazeltine would prefer the Audit committee give a recommendation and then Council would make the final decision.

Mr. Rose stated that if the Audit Committee comes with any recommendation to Council they're going to have facts to back up their recommendation and the council would be reviewing those facts. There would still be a voice in the decision and Council would be executing that voice.

Mr. Coyne stated we'd want to say something like a majority of Members of Council with the consideration of the recommendation of the Audit Committee.

This has to be filed by August 4th if this is to be on the ballot.

Mr. Shields moved to approve as modified, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion Passes 6 – 1. Dennie Simpson cast a nay vote.

For the suggested Emerging Technology Committee, we have a Technology Committee on council already that makes the decisions so is this committee going to make recommendations then to that committee on something that needs to be done or addressed? Is that the plan of this committee?

Stacy stated this was more the Boards and Commissions not just a council committee, so then it would have members that are part of the community that are either working in the industry or educated in that industry being able to provide recommendation function. Then that would move to the Council's Committee for legislative action or policy action.

Mr. Rose likes the intent of this, it is a good thing there are a couple of tweaks first of all with the title, maybe include advisory into that and then as far as titles of people to be added to the committee – we need to be a little more specific. Mr. Rose would like to take this back to the committee so they can discuss those things, looking at the count of people.

*sent back to Emerging Technologies Committee.

Mayor explained the parameters of the Charter Review Committee.

5. 21-118-6/14 – Then & Now – CT Consultants – Law Dept.

Mr. Huber stated he received a bill from David Hart who is their expert witness in Zoning Litigation involving JoJo's. That case was resolved without going to court and we didn't need to have Mr. Hart testify but he did prepare a report. There was no P.O. for the payment of the bill so that is what the Then & Now is about. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. 21-119-6/14 – Medina TV Technical Operations Position

Mr. Fry stated that this is a partnership position between the City of Medina and Medina City Schools for this Technical Operations Director. The schools are looking to expand the role and add some responsibilities to that position and compensate accordingly. This position is split 40 hours per pay, 40 hours for the Performing Arts Center, 40 Hours for Medina TV. They are looking to add those changes to his job responsibilities, those have gone to Civil Service and

was passed through and also passed through the Access Committee back in May and the salary with the shared position is covered by the Medina City School District, the City of Medina covers the benefits side of this position. Additional costs for the City would roughly be \$3,800 in the compensation for 2022. Looking to have this go into effect July 1, 2021 and that is why the emergency clause is needed.

Mr. Shields will abstain from voting since this involves his employer. Mr. Simpson moved to approve subject to the Law Director with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Rose. Motion passed 6-1 abst.

7. 21-120-6/14 – Extend Lease Agreement W/ Williams Scotsman – Muni Court

Cindy Lastuka stated that this is the building currently that they do their check-ins on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to make sure that the foot traffic in the court is monitored very carefully that we don't have overcrowding in front of the Clerks office and in both courtrooms. Requesting emergency because the current lease is now expired, we are on a month to month but we want to make sure we can lock it in at this rate.

Mr. Rose questioned if this was in anyway related to COVID. Can some of the CARES Act funds be used to pay this?

Cindy stated that they have had this since to COVID, they are no longer doing temperatures checks out there since the mandate has been lifted but they have found that monitoring the traffic helps the court a lot.

Mr. Dirham stated they paid for some months of this out of the CARES fund already but the CARES fund money could only pay for some of it due to their deadline of spending. Keith assumes this will be eligible for ARP Funding.

Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 21-121-6/14 – Establish Municipal Court Planning Committee – Ad Hoc

Mr. Coyne stated he submitted this, we are at a new phase in the Muni Court planning. John feels we should have a committee together to move this forward and make sure everybody is on the same page with respect to the agreement with the county, the costs that will be incurred by the city with respect to the development of the court and the development of the court itself. This will establish an ad hoc committee to include Judge Werner, Clerk of Court Joe Salzgeber, the Mayor and two members of City Council.

Mr. Shields feels it is a good idea and supports it and likes the amount of 5 people and feels John Coyne needs to be one of those two council members.

Mr. Lamb stated he built the court and feels we need somebody with background and experience in the history and seconds the idea that Councilman Shields would be really a logical choice in addition to John Coyne.

Mr. Coyne stated it will be those five members and then they try to set up meetings to keep it moving. As far as our involvement with respect to any type of moving into the 1969 building, will not occur until after the county moves out into their new facility, but that doesn't prevent us from making the plans ahead of time and getting everything keyed up that once they move out that we

can be in a position to start the renovations that meet our needs and desires with respect to court operations and clerk operations in that building. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

9. 21-122-6/14 – Elected Official Salaries

Mr. Dirham stated this is in front of council because we have elections this fall and by operation of City Charter and State law we have to set salaries for elected positions prior to the filing deadline for those positions. For Council members that means for those that are up this year the salaries have to be set for their entire term the entire four years. For Mayor and Finance Director those salaries have to be set again for the entire term.

With Council salaries in order to earn full credit in OPERS he listed the amounts you have to earn going forward per OPER's website. There is partial credit towards pension for the council members. There is however no partial credit towards healthcare. Council members are currently earning under the minimum which the minimum per OPERS is \$1,000.00 per month to earn credit towards healthcare in retirement. This is gross numbers not net.

Timeline wise, you have to do this before the filing deadline which is August 4th, 2021 if Council wants to change the numbers as they exist today. Keith stated if you want all of council's salaries to go up in two years you need to pass it now because the members who are elected this year can't have a mid-term increase if you made that decision two years from now.

PERS does not give you credit towards healthcare in retirement for any month in which you earn less than \$1,000.00.

Mr. Heffinger stated that it is still important to build up for retirement. Eric stated even bumping it up to \$1,200 is still poverty level. This probably won't be someone's only job but if you are doing the work he feels you deserve the compensation for it.

Mr. Rose feels the monthly salary compensation should always at least be at the minimum to earn the credit for pension benefit.

Mayor Hanwell stated that the Charter Review was asked to look at term limits and decided not to recommend that.

John feels most of council doesn't want to make the decision on their own and would rather have a third party make a recommendation to what they believe is best for the city or do nothing. Unless someone wants to put something on the table to vote on.

Mr. Rose feels for at least the Mayor and Finance Director he recommends some kind of cost of living increase.

Mrs. Hazeltine and Mr. Shields are good with the two full-time positions of the Mayor and Finance Director being reviewed for recommendations by the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Coyne requested Stacy to try and get the Charter Review Commission to get together and review the salaries of the Mayor and Finance Director and if there is a recommendation they can act on it prior to the July meeting. * On Hold

10. 21-123-6/14 – 2022 Tax Budget

Mr. Dirham stated they will have details on this at the next meeting on this. *On Hold

11. 21-124-6/14 – Bids – Job #1089 – 2021 Pavement Marking Program

Mr. Patton stated this is a project they started a couple of years ago to take over the long line painting which is center lines and edge lines and the intersection pavement markings stop bars and crosswalks to help the Street Department. Asking for \$50,000.00. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

12. 21-125-6/14 – Bids – Job #1094 – Lighting, E. Reagan Pkwy. Multi-Purpose Trail

Mr. Patton within the East Reagan Parkway Trail Project we are putting in a good amount of conduit and the idea is once that is completed they will follow up with this lighting project. Total of 23 lights will be installed and all will be on the south side spaced 150 feet apart. They will be LED lights and look similar to many lights we have in the neighborhoods the colonial post top 13ft. high lights. Patrick stated we are getting from the State of Ohio a capital grant of a little over \$119,000.00 towards this project. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

13. 21-126-6/14 – NOACA TLCI Planning Study Grant Application - Parks

Kimberly stated an area of concern that was recently brought to their attention are the increasing number of people walking along Lake Road. A multi-purpose path/trail connection from Chippewa Rail Trail to the University of Akron Campus headed south and up Lake Road headed north to the Lester Rail Trail would be of interest. We've been discussing the possibility of applying for this grant to do this study. The TLCI program provides support for multi modal transportation planning as well as implementation of those recommendations from those studies. We are anticipating this annual application to be announced this August with a deadline to apply most likely in October. The planning study would look at all of the multi-purpose trails in the city with the connection to the county parks trails and identify those gaps for future projects. Jansen felt if we are going to do this he felt a study that would benefit the entire city would be the way to go. This study is estimated to be at \$50,000 to \$60,000 with a 20% match from the City of Medina which will be in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 range and we have available funds in the JEDD fund. This is a reimbursable grant. Received a lot of interest from the business and industry folks out there.

Mr. Coyne stated their willingness to use the JEDD funds is helpful and he is open to the idea it's a strong enough economic development tool for the industrial area. John requested more information from Kimberly and then she will bring it back to committee.

Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Shields and seconded by Mr. Simpson to enter into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. for conferences with the City's Law Director concerning disputes involving the City which are the subject of pending or imminent court action to include the Mayor and Law Director. The roll was called and motion passed by B. Lamb, P. Rose, J. Shields, J. Coyne, D. Simpson, E. Heffinger and J. Hazeltine.

There being no further business the Finance Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.