

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**March 14, 2005**

The Finance Committee meeting was held on March 14, 2005, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Committee Members: Chair Don Willey, President of Council Robert Stefanik, Lisa Uffman-Kirsch, Council Members: Denise Bobulsky, Vincent Gentile, Tom Koch; Finance Director Karen Fegan, Law Director Tom O'Donnell, Interim Building Commissioner Rick Arrendale; Neil Price.

Moved by Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch, seconded by Mr. Stefanik to amend the minutes of February 14, 2005 Item 1, paragraph two of New Business to read: Discussion with all present was that the city should not be held liable ~~for~~ *when* cleaning the streets if the mailbox was not actually struck by the snow plow. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried. Moved by Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch, seconded by Mr. Stefanik to approve the minutes of February 14, 2005 as amended. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Economic Development Report**

The committee received an updated report from Mr. Kosdrosky. There was no discussion. The committee would like to receive an update on a quarterly basis.

**2. Tax collections: Status as of this date**

Mrs. Fegan said there is a good trend and hopes it continues.

**3. Costs of Master Plan. Review and discussion**

Mrs. Fegan said there has been no further action. The implementation is the next phase and will be handled by the Director of Community Development. Mr. Willey requested an update in May of how much we are spending in the implementation phase.

**4. Monthly Finance Report**

Reports received. No discussion.

**5. Update and status of 2004 and year-end report of Capital Appropriations Budget items**

Final information has been received for 2004. No capital appropriations have been made until after the 2005 budget is approved. Mrs. Fegan will have a report of the 2005 capital appropriations budget items for the April meeting.

**6. Bid Process and Purchasing Policy**

The bid process has been determined. The committee is still waiting for the finalized document of the standard procedure regarding bid process and the purchasing policy that Mr. O'Donnell is to supply. Mrs. Fegan said she will be discussing this with the Law Director.

**7. Proposed Ordinance 05-17, Earned Income Tax**

Moved by Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch, seconded by Mr. Stefanik to recommend approval of 05-17 to Council. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

**8. Proposed Ordinance 05-18, 2005 Budget**

Mrs. Fegan said changes were made to Exhibit A according to the information supplied in her memo to Council dated March 10, 2005. (See attached)

Moved by Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch to recommend approval of 05-18 with the amended Exhibit A as proposed by the Administration according to the memo from the Director of Finance dated March 10, 2005, seconded by Mr. Willey. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Stefanik to recommend approval of 05-18 with the amendment of adjusting the budget Fund #51 to \$7,000 for a vehicle for Wastewater, seconded by Mr. Willey. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Stefanik to recommend approval of 05-18 with the amendment of adjusting the budget to include in Wastewater Fund #51 \$20,000 for a feasibility study of a sanitary sewer system in the southern part of the city, seconded by Mr. Willey. 2 yeas/1 nay (Uffman-Kirsch).

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Police and Fire Levies**

Mrs. Fegan is waiting to hear from Bond Counsel and will distribute the information to Council as soon as she receives it. Information will be ready for discussion at the April Finance Committee meeting. She advised that if it is determined to put a levy on the November ballot it must be to the Board of Elections by August 25, 2005 which is 75 days before the election. Final Council action will be needed in July.

### **2. Moral Claims Commission**

Mr. O'Donnell said he would like to see a Moral Claims Commission formed in order that the process of a Moral Claim is defined. Mrs. Fegan said that she does not think that the Finance Director should be a voting member of the commission since she is a department head and no other department heads are voting members of any commission or committee. Mr. Stefanik said that Mrs. Fegan thought that since the members of the Finance Committee act as our de facto audit committee, she feels that they should act as the Moral Claims Commission. The members of the Finance Committee have a better handle on the finances of the city.

Mr. O'Donnell said that the resident member approach was tried in Strongsville and that did not work because they were rubber stamping everything. Then when the matter came before their Council, they would reject it. This caused a problem. The bottom line is that the buck stops with Council anyway, so it may as well be that either a Council Committee or a committee/commission be created to handle the claims. The Finance Committee could serve as the Moral Claims Commission. The process should be defined. Procedural methods were discussed. Mr. O'Donnell will prepare the legislation.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Stefanik. 3 yeas/0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.