

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 14, 2008

The Finance Committee meeting was held on July 14, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. Meeting called to order at 6:31p.m.

PRESENT: Committee: Chairman Kurt McKee, Vice Chair Gary Petrusky, Vince Gentile; Council: Don Willey, Larry Antoskiewicz; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Finance Director Karen Fegan; Other Attendees: Joanne DuMound, Pat Jones, Nick Cinquepalmi, Brandon Benzin.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Gentile to **approve the June 16, 2008, minutes.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Quarterly Capital Appropriations (Jan/April/July/Oct)

Mrs. Fegan distributed the Quarterly Capital appropriations and reviewed with Council. Mr. Petrusky asked if our funds are safe at National City Bank and Fifth Third due to all of the publicity surrounding these two banking institutions. Mrs. Fegan said that all of our funds are collateralized over 100%.

Mr. Gentile asked where we are regarding interest compared to last year. The total interest for this year is well below last year. Mrs. Fegan said we are making progress on our road projects and paying these projects off. The balance we have to invest will come down. Mrs. Fegan said we have always had a very conservative investment policy in the city that has worked for us. Mr. Petrusky asked how the interest rate plays into affecting the budget. Mrs. Fegan stated that those are revenues we budget for the year and some funds record their own interest; most of our interest goes directly to the General Fund. The General Fund is just where it should be.

Mrs. Fegan said that included in the packet is a fuel budget. The Mayor has issued a memo requesting that the department heads submit a plan of how they are going to decrease their energy usage for the rest of the year, and in years to come. They were also asked to come up with significant changes that will help to conserve fuel. More than half of the money reserved for fuel has been used. We should be at 50%; however, we are currently at almost 60%.

2. Monthly Finance report including tax collections status

Mrs. Fegan said that we do not have our settlement sheets yet; however she did distribute monthly reports and asked committee members to look them over and let her know if they have any questions. Mr. Willey asked about the tax collection and Mrs. Fegan said that we had a huge May, but June went back down to the normal activity.

Mrs. Fegan said we are in the final stages of contracting the printing of our new sewer bills and the sewer bills will be issued a week or two late. It appears that we will have significant cost saving on the printing of the new sewer bills.

Mr. McKee asked if there are many residents who are currently behind on their sewer payments.

Mrs. Fegan said there are not as many residents behind as previously. The unpaid sewer legislation will appear on the July 15, 2008 Council agenda and Mrs. Fegan is requesting this legislation go through three readings to give residents time to pay.

Mr. Petrusky asked if we charge interest to residents who do not pay their sewer bills on time. Mrs. Fegan said we do not currently charge interest; however, it may be something that we should consider.

Mr. Gentile asked about properties that are currently in foreclosure. He said that grass needs to be cut at these residences and asked if we are going to give legislation to Council to lien the property. Mrs. Fegan said we currently do that and try to streamline the process to get the grass cut as soon as possible then

notify the correct parties so there are no problems when the residence is eventually sold. The grass cutting legislation will appear on the July 15, 2008 Council agenda.

Mr. Willey asked about the fees charged to cut grass. Mrs. Fegan said she would like to review the current fees for grass cutting to make sure they are still reasonable.

3. Email

Mrs. Fegan said a new server has been ordered and will be installed at the end of July. The second phase of this project will deal with a terminal server which is where all of the email will be stored. For security reasons, we may have “dummy” laptops available for all of Council. This will alleviate Council members from having to use their home computers for city business; however, nothing is able to be saved on these laptops. Documents can be saved to a folder on the terminal server.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Deferred Compensation

Mrs. Fegan said that the Administration feels that there should be an additional plan available to the employees. Ohio Revised Code states that other entities in the State are limited to the number of plans they are allowed. Municipalities are not included on this list. Mrs. Fegan contacted the representative who was going to try to attend the meeting to answer any questions; however, she was out of town and was unable to attend the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs. Fegan said that there is an amending appropriations ordinance on the next Council agenda and asked if anyone had any questions.

Mrs. Fegan also mentioned that on the next Council agenda, there is legislation to create a cemetery maintenance and improvement fund. We will be taking a portion of the cemetery fees and placing them into this fund. That percentage will be determined at the beginning of the year. There will also be legislation on the next Council agenda to increase cemetery fees.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Gentile to **adjourn the meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**
Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.