

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, June 24, 2024

This Finance Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 7:03 p.m. by Justin Ring, Chairman.

PRESENT: Anthony Lombardo, Justin Ring, Jon Hannan, Lisa McDaniel, Steve Michniak, Marianne Glenn

ABSENT: Jennifer Wagner

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
David Nott, Law Director
Patricia Wain, Police Chief
Rob Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Justin Czekaj, Municipal Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Matt Coffman, IT Network Administrator
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MS. WAGNER.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024, THE SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2024, THE REGULAR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2024 AND THE SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2024 AS WRITTEN.

Moved by Mr. Michniak, seconded by Mrs. McDaniel. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Mr. Ring asked to add an executive session to tonight's agenda to discuss pending/on-going litigation.

MOTION: TO ADD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO THE END OF TONIGHT'S AGENDA BEFORE CITIZENS' COMMENTS.

Moved by Mr. Michniak, seconded by Mr. Hannan. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Monthly Financial Report

Matt Miller said this was the monthly financial report for the end of May 2024. The revenue and expenses were pretty much on target, the same as last year. The General Fund expenses were about 39% and Overall expenses were at 50% (30% was expenditures and 20% was Purchase Orders for money that was tied up but had not been spent yet, especially Capital). The General Fund revenue was at 52% and Overall revenue was about 50%, which were above target for this time of year.

In May the City had paid the interest for the three bonds, which was reflected in the monthly expenses. Overall for cash the City went over \$30 million again for total cash; every fund was up with net cash increase except for 6 funds and 2 of those were the Bond Funds.

The income tax was doing well and YTD was up about \$1.1 million. The net profit slowed down a little this past month but withholding had gone up. Matt Miller liked withholding being stronger than net profit. In May the City had received the retainer refund from RITA. RITA usually withheld 3%, but after a recent conference with them, they were able to get Streetsboro's cost of collections down to 0.83%, so the City got a retainer refund of about \$347,000 which was in the 101- Fund. This was up about \$47,000 from last year. The City made about \$91,000 in interest income in May.

Matt Miller said he was conservative with the 2025 Tax Budget. He had increased interest earnings based on the market but stayed conservative.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Adopt 2025 Tax Budget

Matt Miller said this was setting the 2025 revenue budget. The Tax Budget report was due to the County Budget Commission in July each year, that's why he and the department heads were working on it so early in the year. He had increased the interest income. He said the County estimated that the property taxes would only go up about \$20,000 from last year (that did not include the reevaluation). He felt there would be a shift with more of the City's revenue coming from income tax and property tax (about 90%-91% of the 2025 revenue) and less from permits, fines, and fees. Mr. Ring said that seemed reasonable; now that the Meadow View subdivision was built out there were fewer permits. It was good the City had pretty strong income tax. He said the hotel/motel tax revenue was a large collection point for the General Fund, but he had not increased it much at all for 2025. The income tax revenue had increased about 5% and the Water Fund (another major revenue fund) he had increased about 3%. He had stayed pretty conservative and tried to give good projections for the County.

MOTION: TO SEND THIS TO THE JULY 8, 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AS EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7621 Accept EPA Grant for Valve Exercising Equipment

Bill Miller said the City had applied for this grant in January 2023. The City was awarded a grant for up to \$10,000. This legislation was to accept the grant to be reimbursed from Workers' Comp and EPA for the purchase of the equipment. The equipment was for handheld valve exercisers for hydrants or valves. Instead of having the workers crank the valves by hand this equipment would do it for them and help save injury to their backs.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AS EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

Moved by Mr. Michniak, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7622 Authorize Purchase of New Cruisers

Chief Wain said it had been a struggle in the last year or two with vehicles in the Police Department with crashes, mechanical issues, etc., so the working vehicles had acquired more milage than preferred and were starting to have their own mechanical issues. She had met with Matt Miller about the current budget for vehicles for next year and agreed to get three vehicles, one of which would replace Car 2 that was bought back by Ford. There was a dealership in Pennsylvania, Shorkey Trucks, that actually had Dodge Durangos on the ground ready to go, so getting three cars was needed to eliminate the problem of the current cars getting too much milage, especially since the department was adding to the force. Shorkey would deliver the Durangos to the department and they were priced a little less than the City had paid last year.

The total amount was \$177,494.47, part of that was budgeted in 2024 (\$118,000) and part was not because they had not expected to buy three vehicles this fast. With the buy back the total was \$145,121.47 which included graphics and upfitting of the new cars. There would be some delay (4 months or so) in getting the upfit from Hall Public Safety because they would have to order the equipment, then install it. If the City waited to order next year's cars, there would be no guarantee or delivery date. These cars could be available for use in about four months, or ordering new cars could be July of next year. 2024 had been budgeted for 2 cruisers (\$118,000) and the Ford buy-back was about \$32,000, so the difference would be about \$27,000 to get the third vehicle now, which would come from the General Fund fund balance.

Mrs. Glenn asked if there was any concern regarding these 2023 cars that had been sitting for a while. Chief Wain said they were brand new cars and she didn't have any concerns. She wasn't sure if the cars would be driven here or brought on flatbeds from Pennsylvania, so it was possible they would arrive here with 80-100 miles on them. If the City was to order 2025 cars, they might not arrive until December or even July of next year and the current cars were already beyond the milage where they would have been traded out for pool cars.

It was noted that the quote from Shorkey showed 4 vehicles because that's what the Chief was going to try to get, but they financially decided on three cars and didn't have time to get a new quote. Mr. Hannan asked if these would be the first Durango cruisers. He knew the mechanics preferred to

have similar vehicles and not have to have parts for many different makes and models. Chief Wain said no, there were already two Durangos upfitted and on the road right now. Durangos were the preferred vehicle when the Fords became unavailable. The Tahoe was a one off because the Dodge had gotten cancelled and the Ford was unavailable.

Chief Wain noted the wrecked Chevy Tahoe would be replaced with a Chevy Tahoe, which should arrive in the next few weeks. Hall Public Safety would be able to upfit the one Tahoe in July. These three Dodge Durangos should arrive soon after the Purchase Order was provided to Shorkey, but it would take a few months to get them upfitted by Hall Public Safety. The light bar, radio, and control modules could go from car to car, but the cage, some of the light fixtures, and the push bumper could not transfer from car to car.

Bill Miller confirmed the target was about 80,000 miles to trade in or move a cruiser to a pool car and some of the current cars were at 90,000 miles; the K-9 car was over 100,000 miles. The schedule was to get three new cruisers each year to keep within this mileage schedule and be able to get more money out of them when they were traded in, or get more use out of them as a pool car and sell an old pool car.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Lombardo, seconded by Mr. Michniak. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7623 Accept Donation of Tucson From Great Lakes Hyundai

Mayor Broska had mentioned this at the last Council Meeting. It would be a black 2019 Chevy Tucson with about 50,000 miles and should work well for the needs of the SRO back and forth to the schools. Mayor Broska said Great Lakes Hyundai representatives were unable to attend tonight for recognition of the donation, but he would be certain to send them a thank you letter of appreciation. The vehicle would not be fully upfitted as the regular police cruisers but would have lights and sirens and the same graphics as the other cruisers. Mr. Hannan hoped the administration could get Hall Public Safety to do the upfitting by the start of the school year.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Michniak, seconded by Mrs. Glenn. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7620 Amend 2024 Annual Appropriations [#7]

Matt Miller asked to add an Exhibit "B" tonight. Exhibit "B" would cover the Tahoe insurance as well as the expenditure for the Tahoe. It also covered a request from Parks and Recreation for the 403- fund.

MOTION: TO ADD EXHIBIT "B" TO APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT #7.

Moved by Mrs. Glenn, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.** Mr. Hannan asked what the \$25,000 additional appropriation on this Exhibit was for Parks and Recreation Improvements. Mr. Mytinger said it was for construction of the shell of the maintenance garage

addition. The concrete floor, some interior walls, the siding, the insulation, the heating, etc. would be from 403- in the 2025 budget.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AS AMENDED.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Executive Session

MOTION: TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER PENDING/ON-GOING LITIGATION.

Moved by Mr. Michniak, seconded by Mr. Hannan. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried and the meeting recessed at 7:29 p.m.**

MOTION: TO RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mrs. Glenn. Upon voice vote, **motion carried and the meeting reconvened at 7:47 p.m.**

Citizens' Comments

Julie Field, 264 Sapphire Lane, said she was here to speak about the required installation of the new water meters. She had watched the news report that had a family expressing concerns with the new water meters. She said it was not outlandish to have concerns about smart meters, and although they may not be Council's concerns, she thought Council should be respectful of people's concerns as they represented their constituents. She didn't even think it was relevant what the concerns were (health concerns or privacy concerns) or what the citizens' reasons were for not wanting the new water meters in their homes. She felt strongly there should be an opt out option for residents who chose not to have a smart meter. She said this was a government property that was being put into people's homes; it was intrusive. Some people may not care but she had talked to multiple residents that did not want one, but agreed to get one because they did not want their water turned off. She asked if that was really what Council wanted to do, to threaten the residents? She said she was having a hard time stomaching all this. She just really thought more of the Council Members.

She thought it was really reasonable to offer an opt out, and there was a code in Ohio (Ohio Administrative Code 4901:1-10-05) that required utility companies to offer an opt out program for electric meters that were also smart meters. She said even California (worst state ever in her opinion) offered an opt out, but Streetsboro was not giving residents that option. She felt it was unreasonable and didn't understand why. She said the Mayor had been opposed to allowing anyone to opt out from the beginning, but Council had the ability to do something about it because there was a balance of power, and the Council Members were elected to fight for residents (and had done so before).

She said whether it was a couple residents or 10 or 20 families Council should fight for them. She said the average number of people that refused this technology was approximately 5%. So there

were people who wanted to opt out and she just didn't understand why it had never been an option. She said this was the biggest reason why she had voted not for these new meters when she was on City Council. She also felt it was a poor use of money, but it's already done. She emphasized that Council had to fight for their residents; it's what's right. She knew the City could fight this in the courts for years because the City probably had more money than the residents, but was that what Council wanted to do; to fight the residents? She asked Council to give the residents an opt out option, even if there was a small monthly fee to read the meters a different way. She said she had researched this and there were cities all over the country that do this for residents that don't want a smart meter for whatever reason. She said their reasons (health related or whatever) should not be laughed at or made fun of.

Announcements

A Regular Council Meeting will immediately follow this meeting.

There being no further business to come before this Finance Committee, and upon motion by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Michniak, this meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Justin Ring, Chairman