

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, October 24, 2022

This Finance Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, October 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. by Justin Ring, Chairman. Mrs. Field gave an invocation and Mayor Broska led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ring welcomed the high school students in the audience, explained tonight's proceeding to them, and invited them to come to the lectern if they had questions or comments tonight.

PRESENT: Mike Lampa, Justin Ring, Jon Hannan, Jennifer Wagner, Anthony Lombardo, Steve Michniak, Julie Field

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Frank Beni, Law Director
Rich Polivka, Police Lieutenant
Robert Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2022 AND THE SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2022, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, AND OCTOBER 10, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

Moved by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Monthly Financial Report

- Quarterly Credit Card Report

Matt Miller said it was $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year and the General Fund and Overall expenses were both under 75%. The General Fund revenue was up about 11% and the Overall revenue was up about 9%. Income tax revenue was the main revenue source for the General Fund and was up about 1.1% compared to last year. 87% of the budget had already been collected through September 30, 2022, so the budget was healthy. There were about 4 distributions left from RITA and then there would be two Department of Taxation disbursements for net profits. Most all the big ticket revenue, like property tax, was in already, so it was just EMS, Parks programs, permits, etc. as revenue. The third

quarter billing for water had gone out today, so he had calculated that part of the budget at about 66% collected, so that should move up in 30 days when the bills were due.

Old Business

Discuss Modifying CRA Abatement Terms

Mr. Ring said this discussion had been delayed while the City waited to see if the State would take any action. Mr. O'Malia said the State legislature had not made any concrete moves and probably would not in 2022 because it was an election year. He had some conversations with the Ohio Development Services Agency and they indicated that the housing report done last time should suffice with some modification and the City would not have to start over with a new housing report.

Mr. Ring still wanted to move forward with the proposed changes to remove the portion of the legislation that allowed tax abatements for new home construction because that was not really the intent of the program, and asked what needed to be done. Mr. O'Malia said the City had already done a lot of the work and he would check with the State to see exactly what was required. There had not been any major changes to the built environment in Streetsboro as far as residential homes since the last time the City amended the CRA. The City could point out a success of the program because the City was able to provide a very generous tax abatement to the individual on Stewart Avenue whose home was damaged. The home on Gaynelle Avenue that had a fire did not take advantage of the tax abatement. Mr. Ring asked Mr. O'Malia to put something together for the next Finance Committee Meeting.

New Business

T-7315 Application to OPWC for Page Road Resurfacing

Mayor Broska said the City had applied to OPWC for an extensive rehabilitation and widening of Page Road south of the turnpike down to SR 303, but came in under the cut line and would not get funded, so they did not want to resubmit the same project again, but he did want to get the road paved. Mr. Czekaj had redone the application just for resurfacing Page Road from Frost Road down to SR 303 (about 1.5 miles of roadway which was very expensive). At some point in the future, if funding became available, the City would look to widen the road because there was not much berm. If the City was awarded OPWC funding the project would be in 2024.

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

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

T-7316 Amend Pay Ordinance to Create Engineering Clerk

Mrs. Lockhart-Reese said this was a request from the Municipal Engineer to add a part-time clerk to assist him in his department. He was currently using one of the Building Department clerks but the volume of work in both departments was high and the Engineer was getting behind and needed some more help in his department. If this new position was created and filled the Building Department clerk could focus on the Building Department work.

Mrs. Field said she had discussed this with Mr. Czekaj, the Municipal Engineer, and remembered that when Mr. Czekaj was hired the Mayor had indicated this clerk position would probably be

needed for the in-house Engineering Department. Mrs. Field said Mr. Czekaj was doing a lot and doing a great job, but he needed the people around him to help take care of the City projects that were coming up.

Mr. Ring liked that the position was presented as part-time because it could fill the need but not be a great expense to the City, and the Engineering Department was quite busy. Mayor Broska said the administration had been quite judicious in hiring people and creating positions. He said the last big hire was Jimmy Hoppel as the Assistant Planner for the Planning and Zoning Department and it had been successful. Any new positions were selected carefully and helped to make the City better. Mrs. Field agreed.

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

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

T-7317 Amend Res. No. 2022-130 SR 43 Widening

Mayor Broska said ODOT sold the project a couple weeks ago, and as was expected, the project came in more than estimated. It was about \$51,000 over the engineer's estimate, but under the 8% they were allowed to be over, so he requested Council approve the amending resolution to keep the project moving forward. Shelly did not get this bid.

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

Moved by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7318 Amend Section 909.06 Right of Way Fees

Mayor Broska said this would amend the right of way fees. Mayor Broska explained that Windstream wanted to come in to the City and lay some fiber optic cables. If the City were to charge Windstream as the Code currently required, the cost would be about \$10,000 to Windstream. The Mayor felt that was exorbitant and the City lawyers had said the City would have to prove what the money was for, but the City wouldn't be able to justify what the \$10,000 would be for. Mr. Czekaj suggested the fees be changed to be in line with what other communities around Streetsboro were charging. It was determined that \$800 would be the appropriate maximum permit fee.

Mr. Michniak suggested leaving it at the \$10,000 level because they don't reduce the cable or internet costs to our citizens and \$800 to lay cable across the whole town seemed rather cheap, almost free. Mayor Broska said Mr. Janis had explained that the City could not charge an exorbitant price without justifying what the price was for and the administration could not justify that amount with inspection fees, etc. Mr. Michniak didn't want to cut a break to these companies that don't cut a break to the citizens and charge outrageous rates. Mr. Ring clarified that the City could not profit from permit fees, there needed to be a correlation between the permit fee and the cost to the City for the project.

Bill Miller clarified that this cable project was for commercial business, not residential homes, so it wouldn't go into the neighborhoods. Mr. O'Malia confirmed that there was a concern about Internet

capacity utilization and it was important to upgrade the lines and Windstream was a big provider for Internet capacity and speed. He added that manufacturing centers of the future would be increasingly high-tech and using a lot more robots and the Internet connections were very important. Mr. O'Malia understood Mr. Michniak's concern about "what's in it for us, the citizens" and it had been mentioned in the past about putting in fiber optics to the parks so the City could put in cameras, etc. He suggested maybe the City should ask for some assistance with that if Windstream was going to be in that area. Mayor Broska thought Windstream would be on the north end of town and not near the parks. He felt there was an overall benefit to the City to get higher speed Internet available in town to attract and/or retain businesses.

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

Moved by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7314 Amend 2022 Annual Appropriations [#15]

Matt Miller said this was to take care of a few different things, like the School Resource Officer, the Engineering Department Clerk just discussed, as well as increasing the gasoline budget for the end of the year by about \$30,000 between three accounts because the prices had gone up. There was also a need to increase the appropriation by about \$30,000 for the Visitors and Convention Bureau as part of the cost sharing with the hotel/motel tax to about \$180,000 for the year. Mr. Ring noted the bulk of the net changes was for the SR 43 project discussed earlier tonight.

Mrs. Field asked about the increase to the Beautification account of \$9,500. Mr. Mytinger said it was to replace and add to the holiday lighting displays at Public Square; he said the City had not purchased new lighting displays in about five years. These new styles of holiday lighting were brighter and longer lasting. Mrs. Field still wanted flower baskets hung around the City.

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

Moved by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

None.

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. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Justin Ring, Chairman