

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

The Finance Committee meeting was held on November 16, 2021, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:28 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Paul Marnecheck, Vice Chair Mike Wos, Linda Barath; Council: Jessica Fenos, Joanne Krejci, Jeremy Dietrich; Administration: Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Interim Finance Director Vern Blaze, Law Director Thomas Kelly; Other: Rick Lombardo, John Nickell, Jenny Esarey, Marty Toukonen.

Approval of October 19, 2021 Finance Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Marnecheck, seconded by Ms. Barath. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Monthly Finance report including tax collections status**

No update. It was noted to include this on the agenda for the Special Finance Committee Meeting on December 7th.

KEEP ON AGENDA.

2. **Overtime**

No update. It was noted to include this on the agenda for the Special Finance Committee Meeting on December 7th.

KEEP ON AGENDA.

3. **Jail Task Force Update**

Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that the committee is getting a study done on the operations of the jail. He brought up a company that leases jail cells to cities. This type of study is being done to see how it would fit in in as far as cost, which should be a quick study; that will give more guidance. He spoke of a three-month agreement with the City of Berea, whereas this would be a practice to see how some of this would work. Initially we had a longer time frame. They came back to us and agreed to do it for a three-month period starting in January. Basically, they will always have a cell available where they bring a prisoner every day; we will guarantee the cell. There is a premium to that cost, which is more than the \$125.00 fee to house a prisoner. We think there is a premium cost to that; this is a test run. We have had a couple of inquiries from other cities as well. We wish to reduce our financial burden of the jail. It was the Mayor's hope that Council would pass this tonight with the City of Berea; to get us going.

Mr. Marnecheck mentioned that it costs \$155.00 per day. Mayor Antoskiewicz concurred that it was somewhere in that range. Mr. Marnecheck asked if it is higher because of the guarantee of when they need the cell. Mayor Antoskiewicz concurred, stating that there would always be one spot available on a daily basis; we get paid whether they use it or not.

Mr. Toukonen was in agreeance that we want to see how this will go. We have had a good working relationship with Berea; they are excited about this available space. Mr. Marnecheck inquired about the notification process. Mr. Toukonen indicated that they would just call us in advance that someone would be coming, along with the situation; merely a heads up. Mr. Marnecheck asked about how it would be impacted when it comes to the gender of the prisoner. Mr. Toukonen clarified that it would be based on things such as, where we are going to place them and on what staff is there. All that does is gives a reset for a few moments; if we need to move anyone around to make space accommodation.

Mr. Marnecheck moved that the Finance Committee recommend to Council the approval of ordinance 21-175. Seconded by Ms. Barath. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

4. **Local Income Tax Collection**

No update. It was noted to include this on the agenda for the Special Finance Committee Meeting on December 7th

KEEP ON AGENDA.

5. **RITA: Non-Filing Delinquency Program**

No update. It was noted to include this on the agenda for the Special Finance Committee Meeting on December 7th

KEEP ON AGENDA.

6. **Opioid Settlement**

Mr. Kelly briefed that there is a case pending in trial at this time in our Federal District Court in Cleveland. However, it entails Lake and Geauga County and their claims against the pharmacies. Pertaining to our claims, there was nothing new to share.

7. **American Recovery Act Funds**

No update. It was noted to include this on the agenda for the Special Finance Committee Meeting on December 7th

KEEP ON AGENDA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **WWTP B Conversion**

Mayor Antoskiewicz explained that we are asking for Council's permission to move forward. He referred to an e-mail, whereas, we did apply for the maximum \$250,000 grant through the State Recovery, in which we were granted; to put towards the design. Ms. Krejci questioned if that amount that she is seeing was just for the design. The Mayor concurred. He went on to say that it was pending approval for us to get the grant. We would be applying for that as soon as we get the acceptance from Council to move forward. Mr. Marnecheck asked if the ultimate goal was to use Wastewater funds; not the General fund. Mayor Antoskiewicz agreed.

2. **Finance Director**

Mayor Antoskiewicz stated that he hoped Council would approve his appointment for the new Finance Director, in which he introduced Ms. Jenny Esarey.

Ms. Esarey expressed her anticipation and excitement to be the new Finance Director. Ms. Esarey has her MBA from Baldwin Wallace, in which her undergrad was in Finance. She also has her CPA and has been doing municipal finance work for a few cities. She is a resident of North Royalton. Mayor Antoskiewicz commented that there were three candidates for the position, in which all were very good candidates. He expressed his support and pointed out that Ms. Esarey stood out as a candidate.

Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that there will be an amendment to the ordinance. He went on to say that what he decided to do is adjust the vacation schedule from the normal; for Ms. Esarey. He felt that it was warranted and fair. In short, he readjusted the vacation schedule, which we will be amending tonight; with needed approval from Council.

Ms. Krejci asked if the adjustment of the vacation schedule would affect others. Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that it would not. He felt that we may give additional time when we feel it is warranted. He continued that Ms. Esarey would have had four weeks of vacation time, in which she is starting out with two weeks for the City. He would like to recognize some of her time. Mr. Marnecheck inquired about her start date. The Mayor indicated that she starts on December 6th. Ms. Krejci questioned the fill in that was approved, whether the two of them would be here together for a period of time. The Mayor advised that Mr. Blaze would be here only until Ms. Esarey starts; he leaves Friday, December 3rd.

Mr. Marnecheck moved that Council approve ordinance 21-174, with amendments. Seconded by Mr. Wos. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

3. 2022 Budget

No update. It was noted to include this on the agenda for the Special Finance Committee Meeting on December 7th.

Mayor Antoskiewicz conveyed that if anyone had questions before the next meeting, to e-mail them to Eric's email address for Mr. Blaze and the Mayor to be able to review. Mr. Marnecheck asked about a previous conversation, whether we should address any questions by November 28th; to provide some time for answers. Mayor Antoskiewicz concurred.

KEEP ON AGENDA.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Marnecheck, seconded by Ms. Wos to **adjourn the November 16, 2021 Finance Committee meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.