

**SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2021**

The Special Finance Committee meeting was held on December 21, 2021, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Paul Marnecheck, Vice Chair Mike Vos; Council: Vincent Weimer, Joanne Krejci, Jeremy Dietrich; Administration: Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Thomas Kelly. Other: Dawn Carbone-McDonald, Michael McDonald, Marty Toukonen.

Mr. Marnecheck moved to excuse Ms. Barath. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2022 Budget

Mr. Marnecheck indicated that we would be amending the budget. Ms. Esarey clarified the reason was due to the Civil Service supplies and materials needed, which totaled \$200, was in there; however, it was not summed properly. The new amendment included the correct amounts. Mr. Marnecheck mentioned this would be for third reading.

Mr. Marnecheck moved to recommend Ordinance 21-184 to Council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Vos. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Ordinance 21-187 (Senior Transportation Connection)

Mr. Kelly advised that every year the City has a renewal contract with Senior Transportation, whereas in the past, they were using two of our vans. They were attempting to negotiate with us to secure the ownership of those vans, however, they were not willing to pay anything near the reasonable, fair market value. We were unable to secure the discounted rates that we were hoping to obtain from them. However, we will be recovering the vans for purposes of resale at a later date. We have their standard agreement with all municipal cooperation's; this will involve an increase in what they are going to charge us for the rides for residents. He indicated that only 14-16 people make use of this service on a regular basis; money devoted to this purpose would be rather small.

Ms. Krejci raised question if it is paid for by the City. Mr. Kelly clarified that no; the riders make a significant contribution to their own rides in each direction. We subsidize to the transportation, in lieu of the transportation arrangement for many years, where we had employees providing the service. We were able to make some significant savings over the years by going with Senior Transportation. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that the residents pay 10 dollars each way. He went on to say we discovered that if they are charged nothing, they often abuse it and fail to notify anyone when cancelling appointments; therefore, Senior Transportation shows up for nothing, which is a cost to them. We do charge, as many cities do so, what Mayor Antoskiewicz felt was reasonable.

Mr. Kelly shared that this is an important service that some people sincerely need to have. We have managed to narrow it so that those who need it have it, and we subsidize it. He believed it was under \$10,000; roughly \$6,000-7,000 annually. Ms. Krejci commented that she had good personal experiences with the company in her own family and spoke of its importance. She questioned if we are charging the right amount, and wanted to know if more people would use it if lowered. Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that prior to this, it was lower because we were letting them use our van. We were charging less and the numbers are not significantly higher. We found that people start finding a friend or relative to take them. The last couple of years when we allowed our vans to be used and the discount, we had roughly the same group of people to utilize it. The numbers were not significantly higher, although in the past couple of years the price has been lower.

Mr. Marnecheck moved to recommend Ordinance 21-187 to Council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Vos. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Marnecheck, seconded by Ms. Vos to **adjourn the December 21, 2021 Finance Committee meeting.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.