

**SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2022**

The Special Finance Committee meeting was held on November 15, 2022, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Paul Marnecheck, Vice Chair Mike Wos, Linda Barath; Council: John Nickell, Dawn Carbone-McDonald, Joanne Krejci, Jeremy Dietrich; Administration: Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Law Director Tom Kelly, Police Chief Keith Tarase; Other: Michael McDonald, Rylee McKervey, Katie Zmickl, Taylor Myers, Liya Matheou, Joel Spatz.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance 22-181 – 2023 Budget

Ms. Esarey advised that she addressed questions that Council had regarding the budget. Mr. Marnecheck noted that everyone received the answers and description from Ms. Esarey pertaining to these questions and concerns.

Mr. Nickell mentioned his desire in having \$250,000 set aside for the Royalwood intersection. He wanted to know how he could be assured that it has been set aside. Ms. Esarey referred to the notes, which defines setting something aside, whereas it will stay in the carry-over balance. Mr. Marnecheck asked if it is put into a specific fund. Ms. Esarey clarified it is not, it stays within the fund; which is the 211 Fund, and it would be in for Road Construction. The reason being, if you take the \$5.6 M of revenue, less the \$5.1 M of proposed expenditures for that fund, we do have a reserve that we are looking to, then keep in that fund. The ORC would not allow her to create a special fund just to keep for this, however, we would track it and make sure that Council would know the \$250,000 is there. We can monitor the carry over balance and discuss that in moving forward.

Mr. Nickell stated that all of Council wants to see the intersection in question fixed, and he encouraged saving the money. Again, the best way to do that, is put away; which will take time. Ms. Esarey noted that she can continue to provide Council with information on the carry over balance when she does monthly statements, to show and demonstrate that we are saving that \$250,000.00.

Ms. Krejci believed we discussed the Road Rating Program in Streets Committee. To her recollection, we had decided to put money away for next year to do that. Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that on the Road Rating Program, he would like to do it in-house. He has spoken to Mr. Cinquepalmi and Mr. Fielding. He believes that we would be able to give a more extensive Road Rating Program. He explained that the cost he was provided with is excessive, and he did not feel it is reasonable to spend \$30,000 for it. He spoke of the last five years and how he does not need someone to tell him that certain roads are nice. He knows that when they do their road rating, they want to go through every street again and charge. When presented, they did not seem to want to budge on the price. He had discussion with Mr. Cinquepalmi, whereas they came up with a formula in a way of rating them 1-5. He would like Council to give him a chance to implement it in such a way, and give a more extensive road rating; he was confident that we could do it.

Mr. Marnecheck asked what the Mayor was quoted. Mayor Antoskiewicz reiterated that it was \$30,000.00. Ms. Krejci personally felt that if they think they can do it, then she has no problem with what the Mayor discussed. She thought the idea of doing a whole road rating would be a good idea. Mayor Antoskiewicz added that we will have it for all of the streets; not just what we have been doing. It was his hope that by the Spring we will have it, so that everyone will have an idea what it is. With all of the work completed in the last 4-5 years on roads, he did not feel it is as extensive of a job; for that kind of money. He reiterated that we will look at all of the streets in every ward. As discussion ensued, Mr. Nickell was fine with it as well.

Ms. Krejci inquired about the potential IT person, whether that was in the budget this year or next year. Ms. Esarey clarified that it was in the budget this year. However, she has been using it to offset other requested budget amendments for that. She referred to the report, whereas it is still in the City Hall line item and it is in

next year's budget. The amount that was started has been dwindled, because she knows we are not going to spend it; therefore, she has been using it to offset other expenditures. Ms. Krejci asked if we would be able to potentially get someone for the position. Mayor Antoskiewicz explained that Mr. Beals is looking at it to see where we may need to adjust some of the qualifications. Also, we are looking at the pay. He spoke of the possibility that we may need to raise the pay, which again, seems to be the way things are going at this time. Mr. Beals is reviewing both things.

Mr. Nickell wanted to know if we are still using DIS. Ms. Esarey indicated yes, that is in the budget as well. Mr. Nickell asked about the cost per year. Ms. Esarey clarified that the annual cost is roughly \$60,000; that is for their cost. There are other things that we are paying for with e-mail, etc. In reference to the report, the \$60,000 is basically the monthly cost and it is for them to be on call for us at all times. There are many times that Mr. Beals cannot do everything or may not be here. Ms. Esarey noted that she calls DIS in those circumstances and gets what is needed. Mr. Nickell understood that we have been with them for a while, however, he wanted to know if we have compared other costs. Ms. Esarey was uncertain if Mr. Beals has done so. Mr. Nickell felt that seems high, however he was uncertain as to what all they do for us. Ms. Esarey commented that we use them a lot; her department included. Mr. Nickell questioned if we hire somebody, would that amount in question go down. Ms. Esarey explained probably for this next year, as an annual contract, that it would stay. However, once someone is in there, perhaps Mr. Beals could look at changing the contract terms to a lesser term if need be. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that the idea behind hiring one more would be making them exclusive, with qualifications; so they can take care of the Safety Forces Department. This would allow Mr. Beals to concentrate more on day-to-day things. He is not here a lot; however, the Police Department and Fire use him a great deal.

Mr. Marnecheck wanted to know, being that it would be the lead qualification, whether that was why the Mayor wished not to contract this out; but have someone in-house to have that capability. Mayor Antoskiewicz agreed. He continued that in talking with Mr. Beals, we want that person to do leads so that Mr. Beals can continue to oversee everything; as well as, all of the buildings. Mr. Marnecheck inquired if everyone was comfortable with this going to third reading, in which everyone was comfortable.

Ms. Barath inquired about page 10, whereas it shows materials, supplies, election estimated increase due to extra election. Ms. Esarey clarified that August 2nd is an extra election. They still have to mobilize everything as if it were a full election. Normally when they do that, there is a little additional cost. She built a little in there, which was a guesstimate.

Mr. Nickell asked about when the trash contract comes up. Ms. Esarey indicated that we took one more year extension. Mayor Antoskiewicz added that we have one remaining year. Last year, we did get some bids, and we decided to take the extension as the better way to go. We have one more year, which we can look at another extension. Ms. Esarey pointed out that it is a reasonable extension. Mr. Nickell brought up the bids, whereas everything was automatic pick up. Mayor Antoskiewicz agreed. Eventually we would likely have to deal with that. He stated that based on what we have seen so far, we will still do some digging to see. At this point, the Mayor felt that we would likely take our next year extension and go from there.

Mayor Antoskiewicz mentioned that since it is going on third reading, if for some reason anybody finds anything, to please get it to us ahead of time; to ensure we can answer questions again prior to the next meeting. Mr. Marnecheck suggested the time of 6:30 p.m. rather than 6:00, for the next Finance Committee meeting, before the 20th of December; just in case there are more questions. Everyone was okay with that.

Mr. Nickell asked about the Senior Center, if it goes ahead, whether there is money budgeted. Ms. Esarey explained yes, for the construction; it is out of the 432 Fund, which is the Future Capital Improvement Fund. She referred to the report, which shows the Building Improvement is at \$500,000; the estimated cost that was provided.

Mayor Antoskiewicz wanted to make sure that everyone liked the summary. Everyone appreciated the summary that Ms. Esarey provided. Ms. Krejci, along with others expressed their appreciation.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Marnecheck, seconded by Ms. Barath to **adjourn the December 6, 2022 Special Finance Committee meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.