

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

October 16, 2017

Members: Carol Klinger, Chair
Russ Iona
Mike Brillhart

Mrs. Klinger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-75
Temp. Res. B-76
Temp. Ord. B-77
Temp. Ord. B-78
Temp. Ord. B-79 (Sub. Dated 10-16-17)
Temp. Ord. B-80

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-75

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc. for the professional services necessary to manage the City's risk management and insurance program and for the purchase of public entity insurance coverages, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that the City's insurance coverage is going down by roughly \$3,600. That's due to working through the flood claims of 2014. Otherwise, everything else is the same with the insurance from last year to this year. This contract has not been bid out. Cuyahoga Falls is unique in that they handle their own claims. Wichert Insurance Services is one of the typical government providers. They handle most of the government accounts in Summit County. They send surveys out and get quotes from other carriers, so they are bidding this out within themselves, as well.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-75 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iona. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Res. B-76

A resolution accepting the amounts and rates of taxation as certified by the Summit County Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies, certifying such authorization to the County Fiscal Officer, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that this is a resolution that occurs every year that allows the City to collect its property taxes. There's no change in the rates. It is just legislation designed to cross the T's and dot the I's.

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Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Res. B-76 with a favorable recommendation, second by Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-77

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts for the purchase of play equipment to be installed at Woodridge Primary and Intermediate Schools, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that this is the first time the City has had an opportunity to collaborate with the Woodridge Local School District since the agreement was initiated between Woodridge and the City of Cuyahoga Falls. A few weeks ago, Council passed an ordinance to join a buying agreement, and that was for this playground equipment. As indicated on Council's budget sheet, this is going to be approximately \$111,000. It is actually going to cost \$5,600 to \$7,000 more. The shipping was not included in this budget amount. The budget amount is being covered by savings in the other capital projects of Parks and Recreation. Most of that money to cover the cost of the playground equipment was from the savings of approximately \$100,000 on the roof at Quirk Cultural Center, as well as \$20,000 in savings on the restroom in Waterworks. There were three bidders on this project. The Woodridge School District was allowed to weigh in on these three bids. The one they selected and preferred was the lowest-cost bid.

Mr. Ed Stewart, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, stated that he had printouts that Council could pass around. Mrs. Klinger stated that these are the drawings of the new playground equipment. Mr. Stewart stated that there are three different pieces; one will be adjacent to the Intermediate School, one will be on the side of the open area next to the Primary School, and then there will be one in the middle that is all fully handicap accessible. There are also some swings that are not in that picture. Those are the colors that they will be. Woodridge has picked them out. There were three proposals received from all three buying groups and the City felt this was the best and the least expensive proposal. Mrs. Klinger stated that it is wonderful that the City gets to partner with the Woodridge Schools, because it has been done with the Falls Schools for years. The only playground in that school system that is not accommodated is Silver Lake. This is an exciting proposal and she is looking forward to seeing it in place at the grand opening. Mr. Walter Davis, Superintendent of the Woodridge Local School District, stated that they, too, are very excited about this. As everyone knows, they are building a new elementary school. While the legislation talks about the Primary and Intermediate as though they're two different places, they're not. There is a Primary and Intermediate wing on the building, and this playground will be in between the two. It's going to be very exciting for the kids. The collaboration that the City of Cuyahoga Falls is establishing with the Woodridge School District is a big deal. He thanked the Mayor, Cabinet and Council for opening their minds and partnering with them.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-77 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iona. Motion passed (3-0).

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Temp. Ord. B-78

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with The Fire House, for the purchase of turnout gear for use by the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that this acquisition is being made because there was money saved on the aprons that were installed. Part of the capital projects for the Fire Department are turnout gear. They had four to five extra pieces of turnout gear fail, so spares are low. In terms of turnout gear, any time firefighters are in a fire, all the turnout gear must be sent to be cleaned. It can't be used until it's cleaned. They also have a 10-year life on that equipment. The turnout gear is needed in a variety of sizes to fit all the different firefighters. Regardless of how much it's used, once it reaches the 10-year limit, it expires. Being able to purchase 24 pieces of gear is going to help build up the spares, so that when these go out for cleaning or when they fail the test, there will be enough to keep all the firefighters safe.

Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-78 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-79

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts without competitive bidding with the Metropolitan Regional Service Council dba Northeast Ohio Network for Educational Technology (“NEOnet”) for the purchase of IP telephony and voicemail services for a period not to exceed five years, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brillhart moved to amend Temp. Ord. B-79 with Temp. Ord. B-79 (Sub. Dated 10-16-17), second by Mr. Iona. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-79 (Sub. Dated 10-16-17)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts without competitive bidding with the Metropolitan Regional Service Council dba Northeast Ohio Network for Educational Technology (“NEOnet”) for the purchase of IP telephony and voicemail services for a period not to exceed five years, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that the substitute is just a change in Section 2, where it states that the cost would be paid out of capital versus all the different departments. This is not a capital expenditure. It is being paid out of all the different departments. This is the service that has the fiber that runs from the City Building to NEOnet. They own all the equipment and the phone systems, so this is merely a maintenance cost. The maintenance cost is flat at \$19,125 a year for 5 years. When this contract was first entered, the City was paying \$50,000 a year for this service, so the service has come down significantly. It's all the phone lines and long-distance service. If the City were to change providers, there would be an extraordinary cost to change it.

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Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-79 (Sub. Dated 10-16-17) with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iona. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-80

An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of Notes in the maximum principal amount of \$1,800,000, in anticipation of the issuance of Bonds, for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing waterlines in Graham Road, together with all appurtenances thereto, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that Temporary Ordinance B-80 is right along with the budget plan of rolling the waterline notes for the Graham Road project. This project was done a couple of years ago. In the budget plan, it was decided to roll them another year and start paying down on those notes possibly next year. The anticipated interest is somewhere around one-and-a-half coupon rate and between 1 and 1.25 yield on these notes moving forward. Mrs. Klinger stated that this ordinance is straightforward. This is in alignment with the debt schedule that Council was given back in July, so nothing has changed from that point of view.

Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-80 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.