

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
February 1, 2016

Members: Carol Klinger, Chair
Russ Iona
Michael Brillhart

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

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-6

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-6

An ordinance establishing pay ranges for part-time, per diem, and special classification workers, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

Mrs. Klinger asked Chief Davis if he would like to make a statement about the ordinance. Chief Davis stated that the only category that would be affected by this ordinance is police dispatchers. He said that they are emergency dispatchers that are highly-skilled, part-time workers. Chief Davis stated that they are trying to maintain the dispatchers they have by rewarding them with higher wages.

Mrs. Klinger asked Mr. Hoffman if the only thing that changed in the ordinance is PTR-7. Mr. Hoffman stated that one row was added for PTR-7 that went up to a total of \$20.50, which is the amount they would like to raise one of the dispatchers to. Mrs. Klinger stated that there are two part-time dispatchers. Mr. Hoffman said there are two part-time dispatchers that would be under PTR-7, one budgeted for \$20 and the other one budgeted for \$20.50.

Mrs. Klinger stated that Mr. Hoffman mentioned that there has been difficulty keeping those positions filled. Chief Davis stated that it is a high-stress job. It is not a 9-to-5 job; that they have to be people who want to work shift work. He stated that they are fortunate the two to whom they would like to give a raise are very experienced dispatchers. There are a couple part-timers that are going through the training that are doing this on the side. Fortunately, these are retirees, so they are able to be a little more flexible with their schedule.

Mrs. Klinger asked Mr. Hoffman if these were included in the budget for this year. Mr. Hoffman stated they were. Mrs. Klinger asked if that would also be the constraint that would prevent any other part-time workers to be dropped into this category. Mr. Hoffman stated yes, it would.

Mr. Iona stated that because he wasn't on Council at that time, he wasn't privy to the budget, but, in reviewing the ordinance, it was obvious that these raises are needed at this time. He asked Mr. Hoffman if this money was in the budget or if it was coming from a rainy-day fund. Mr. Hoffman stated the money comes from the budget that was passed for total appropriations in December

Finance Committee Meeting
February 1, 2016 – Page 2

2015. He stated the City doesn't have a rainy-day fund, but has what is considered a fund balance in the General Fund. This would come from General Fund monies that were appropriated based on estimated revenues and estimated expenses. Whether or not that fund balance is tapped at the end of the year is based on actual revenues and actual expenses. Mr. Iona asked if that means if the City keeps taking in money in taxes and things roll in the way they were anticipated, everything will be fine, and, if they come up a little short, the City may dip in the fund a little bit to make it work. Mr. Hoffman stated that would be correct.

Mrs. Klinger stated that the accounts that were appropriated to the Police Department for the Dispatch Department were included in the expenditure side in the budget that Council went through as part of the General Fund for 2016. Mr. Iona asked if the money was there. Mr. Hoffman said the money is appropriated. Mr. Iona said that was the answer he was looking for and thanked Mrs. Klinger and Mr. Hoffman.

Mrs. Pyke asked why the ordinance says per diem and special classification if it is for part-time dispatch. Mrs. Klinger answered that it is because it is the whole per-diem section, and what Council is doing is adding PTR-7 to this ordinance. Mrs. Pyke asked if the PTR-7 is the only part being changed. Mrs. Klinger answered yes. Mrs. Pyke thanked Mrs. Klinger.

Mr. Pallotta asked Chief Davis if these classifications are all pertinent to the Police Department. Chief Davis stated he believes the part-time rates are city-wide. Mr. Pallotta asked if these included classifications such as aerobic instructors. Mrs. Klinger stated those are per-diem classifications. Mr. Pallotta thanked Mrs. Klinger and Chief Davis.

Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-6 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.