

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
April 15, 2013

Members: Carol Klinger, Chair
Jerry James
Vince Rubino

Mrs. Klinger called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the April 1, 2013 Committee meetings were approved as amended.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-20

Temp. Ord. B-21

Discussion

Mrs. Klinger stated that Council had the Report 21 from February and the supplemental report. The Mayor's Court continues to stay down but there is time to bring it up. The Nat is also down. Mr. Brodzinski stated the Nat is the biggest department within the Leisure Time Fund. They are watching it and will hold back on expenditures as the year goes on. Mrs. Klinger asked what is causing the fallout. Mr. Brodzinski stated that non-residential rates are lower. Part of that is because they are comparable to other facilities in the area. Compared to 2012, he pointed out there was an extra day in February. Mrs. Klinger stated there was new information on these reports that she had asked Mr. Brodzinski to provide. There are some wild percentages but when you look at the dollar amounts, the percentages are immaterial.

Temp. Res. B-20

A resolution urging Congress to support and maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds under the Internal Revenue Code, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Dougherty stated this ordinance went to all municipalities. They went to a legislative rally in March to lobby to preserve tax-exempt status. They have been exempt since the beginning of the Tax Code. This is how cities fund their projects. If they get rid of this, it will raise costs for everyone. This current federal action is occurring through the budget process. They attend this rally each year. They go to promote public power. A lot of projects are financed through AMP-Ohio. Mrs. Klinger stated that tax-exempt bonds are important to municipalities.

Mr. Rubino moved to bring out Temp. Res. B-20 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-21

An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 89-2012 to assign a newly classified position to an appropriate established pay grade, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Carr stated they did an analysis in the Street Department. They had two unexpected retirements which forced them to take a look. They reduced staff in 2005 due to automation. There were 40+ people handling the sanitation route. Today, they have 13. On the street side, staffing went down from 30+ people to 23. They are still doing a good job delivering service in both areas. They are pushing more and more to blend departments. Also, since they were bringing down staff, they reduced management as well. They borrow a foreman from another department seasonally. An equipment operator moved up to help

also. The bottom line is they continue to save money in both departments. They have saved almost \$800,000 in those two departments. The last time they were fully staffed was 2011. If they continue on that route, their budget number would be \$272,950. With the plan they would like to employ, it would be \$219,460, which is a savings of about \$53,000. They would like to take the current street foreman position and create that as the Assistant Street Sanitation Superintendent position. It would be Grade 29 and would not be eligible for overtime. This sets the standard that it is one department. They will now have supervisors working directly with crews. There were times when management was not out there and they found they really needed it. The foreman job description was antiquated. This new position will be reporting directly to the superintendent and will be second in command. The Civil Service has approved the job description and did a task analysis to prepare for a test. Mrs. Klinger stated the charts are very helpful. When you see a decrease in staff in all levels and when we talked about automation, most of the workers compensation was coming out of that side. She asked if the number of claims subsided. Mrs. Carr stated they did initially when they first went to automation. Mr. Novak added that the number was updated two years ago and was close to an 85% decrease. Mrs. Klinger stated a current figure would be helpful. It is good information to have.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-21 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Rubino. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.