

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
May 7, 2012

Members: Diana Colavecchio, Chair

Don Walters

Jeff Iula

Mrs. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the April 16, 2012 Finance Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed:

None.

Discussion

Mrs. Colavecchio asked Mr. Brodzinski to give a comparison on how the City did the first quarter of 2012 vs. the first quarter of 2011. Mr. Brodzinski stated that during the first quarter of 2012, general fund revenues are down \$1.5 million. \$1,075,000 is a timing difference in the periodic payments received from the County for real estate taxes. \$106,000 is due to local government taxes being down. The first half payment for estate taxes is down \$139,000, which puts the total at approximately \$1,320,000. Expenses are up \$709,000. \$185,000 of that is due to Information Services being moved to the general fund for 2012. It also includes the various raises that various employees and unions received. No raises took place during the first quarter last year. Street Fund expenses are down \$280,000 which will help it hold its own. Nat revenue is down slightly at \$21,500, and the golf course and Downview are up. The City is on budget. Various departments are at or below budget. When there is a retirement or an employee leaves, the Administration evaluates to see whether that position needs to be refilled. In response to Mrs. Colavecchio's questions on various accounts, Mr. Brodzinski stated that, regarding property tax revenue, the City is on target. The County gives the money sporadically. The first half taxes were not in until April so it is just a timing issue. The City collects the tangible personal property in June but that has been completely eliminated so the City is going from \$840,000 on an annual basis to zero. The City is done receiving CAT. Mission Tax is Blossom so that affects June, July, August, September and October. The roll-back should be received this month but it will only be half. The remaining half should be received in September or October. Local Government comes in on a monthly basis. The State's new budget is cutting 25% the first year then 50% the second year. That is starting to affect us for July collection. It will be cut 50% in August. The Mayor's Court is trending slightly up. Human Resources is down from 2011 due to a retirement of a secretary. A good piece of the savings for Custodial is due to the savings from the cleaning staff. They also have to budget for unemployment benefits for that staff. The revised budget for Storm Drainage for \$1 million is for the grant the Administration brought down for dam removal. The City has not yet received it. Mrs. Pyke stated with regard to Chestnut and 8th St., that she was told Mr. Christopher would have to find the funds to do that project. She stated \$1.197 million was in reserve and asked what does the City want to see in reserve. Mr. Brodzinski stated that the industry standard is 266 days of cash on hand so it needs to be around the \$2.5 million range. Mrs. Pyke is concerned that if the project is not planned for now, the City will be in a situation of having to do it later. She feels this is an urgent situation. There were 16 breaks last year and she doesn't think it will last another winter.

Mrs. Colavecchio asked about retirements and staffing. Mrs. Carr stated they updated the set that was distributed at budget time. The date indicates that an individual is either retired or will be. Numbers 18, 19, and 20 were unexpected at budget time. Numbers 1, 2, and 17 were disability retirements. With

regard to the staff report, Mrs. Carr stated that the only change was in her area. They took a secretarial position that was a layoff within the Fire Department and transferred that position to Utility Billing. They changed a Clerk's position to a secretarial position. Utility Billing is trying to collect as much money up front before turning accounts over to the Akron Credit Bureau and that individual is helping. In one month, they collected an additional \$16,000. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if it was anticipated that this report would change in the next quarter. Mrs. Carr stated it was possible due to reorganization.

Mrs. Colavecchio stated that a local probate judge has mentioned about people having survivorship. The City of New Franklin is informing its residents. It conducted a search and found residents who should have a survivorship deed. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if the City has been approached by the Probate Court to be a part of the search. Mr. Janis indicated the City has been contacted by a probate court judge but he has not yet analyzed it. He will get back to Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.