

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

June 20, 2016

Members: Carol Klinger, Chair
Russ Iona
Mike Brillhart

Mrs. Klinger called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the June 6, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Res. A-49

Temp. Res. A-50

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-49

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with WatchGuard Video for the lease and/or purchase of twenty-two (22) in-car video cameras and all necessary accessories for use by the Police Department, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that this ordinance was to replace the existing camera systems that are in the City's police vehicles. That camera system is no longer supported. This camera system will have panoramic view. It will have 24-hour lookback as opposed the 15-minute lookback the current system has. Captain Steve Guldeman did the research on this. Stow is also using this system, and they're very pleased with the system. The other system that was on the State bid came in at \$130,000. This came in at \$110,000 and is felt to be a better system. In addition, if the State Legislature requires body cameras in the future, this system would support body cameras. This was in the budget and will be in all the cars.

Mr. Brillhart asked Police Chief Davis how the panoramic view will work. Chief Davis stated that the camera, itself, is designed for a wider angle that creates a wider view than the current cameras. The cruisers will also be equipped with a rear camera to record the prisoner section in the back seat. Mr. Brillhart asked where on the cruiser the camera is mounted. Chief Davis stated it is mounted up by the rearview mirror. Mrs. Pyke asked if the cameras activated automatically when the lights and siren come on. Chief Davis stated the camera will automatically activate any time the lights and siren come on. They also have a policy that it comes on at all traffic stops. The officers have also found it to be a useful to activate the camera when they go to a domestic call, because it does have a microphone that records so they are at least getting audio all the time. Mrs. Pyke stated that it is necessary with today's times. Chief Davis stated that the Police Department saves quite a bit of court time with these kind of systems, especially on DUI arrests. They have had in-car cameras for at least 8 to 10 years.

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Mr. Colavecchio stated that he would like to just to verify that there is a rear camera that would be recording the prisoner or prisoners in the back. Chief Davis said that was correct. Mr. Colavecchio said that he has heard of instances in other cities where prisoners will try to injure themselves and blame the police. He stated that this would be a way to reduce liability for the City and prevent lawsuits, because there is more video evidence. Chief Davis stated that they are very effective. Mr. Colavecchio stated this could potentially save money for the City, and that it is terrific.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-49 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iona. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-50

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for city-wide tree removal, trimming, and stump grinding, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that this ordinance is for the City's annual tree trimming outside of the Electric Department. This is a little bit more than \$50,000 higher than it was last year. In looking at the Recreation Levy line, there is \$50,000 in the Recreation Levy line. This is to take care of the Ash trees in the parks and recreation area. If that \$50,000 is removed, it is approximately \$2,400 over last year's cost. Pro Tree is the bidder on this contract. This is done every year.

Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-50 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.