

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

**July 24, 2017**

**Members:** Carol Klinger, Chair  
Russ Iona  
Mike Brillhart

Mrs. Klinger called the meeting to order at 6:44 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the July 10, 2017 Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed**

Temp. Ord. B-54

Temp. Ord. B-55

Temp. Ord. B-56

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-54**

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into contracts, without competitive bidding, for the lease and maintenance of golf carts for Brookledge Golf Club, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that the City has a current lease on golf carts that goes through 2018. Mr. Ed Stewart, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, has a proposal to replace those golf carts with lithium battery carts, which are better for the environment, stay charged longer and will save electricity. They will not be going out for competitive bid, because the cost of the brand-new carts is less than the second-highest bid they had the last time.

Mr. Stewart stated that the current contract per year is about \$11,000. This new lease would be with new lithium carts that are much friendlier environmentally with no emissions. The energy savings included to charge the carts would be about \$64,000 over a six-year period. These carts keep a charge longer. They have been using these batteries in California and in Europe for eight years with no issues. The biggest issue with golf carts is keeping a charge. Toward the end of four years and into the fifth year is when carts start losing charge and have to be towed off the golf course on a regular basis. Every indication is if they were to go out to bid at the end of next year for a new lease, they would not get the price they have now. The second-lowest price was almost \$10,000 more than this per year.

Mrs. Klinger stated that the lithium batteries have less maintenance and are lighter weight. Mr. Stewart stated that, with this proposal, they're going to forgive the last payment of this year's contract, which is \$11,970. Currently, the City leases a cart for maintenance at Downview. That is a separate contract. They're giving the City a maintenance cart for the six-year lease. The cart they're giving the City is a much nicer cart than what they currently lease and would cost \$1,000 a month if they leased it.

**Finance and Appropriations Committee**  
**July 24, 2017 – Page 2**

Mr. Pallotta asked how many holes they get on a charge now. Mr. Stewart stated that, when the batteries are good, they use their carts for at least 36 holes. After four years, the new carts get close to 80 holes off the lithium charge. There are two batteries in packs like AA batteries. There is a dramatic difference in weight, which, with the amount of traffic they get on the golf course and will save on the turf maintenance, also. Mrs. Pyke asked how long it takes to charge the batteries. Mr. Stewart stated that the lead acid batteries take close to eight hours to charge and the new carts will take about half the time.

Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-54 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-55**

An ordinance providing for supplemental and/or amended appropriations of money for current operating expenses and capital expenditures of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and authorizing the transfer of appropriations within and for the various funds hereinafter set forth, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that, in the General Fund, under the Service Director's Budget, they have an administrative position that has been vacant for a little bit of time. That item is budgeted in the Personal Services line item. They have been using temporary staff to help with the phones and do some of the duties of that position. They need to increase Other Operations and move it from Personal Services to Other Operations. Under the Building and Grounds Maintenance line item, \$15,506, they are going to add the appropriations in this piece of legislation for the Oakwood Cemetery. That piece of legislation will be discussed next. That line item is only an increase in the number. The City is going to be reimbursed for the cost of their portion of the repairs to the stained glass. In the Permissive Tax Fund, they budgeted about \$200,000 a year from their permissive tax monies. That comes from the County. This year, Tony Demasi, City Engineer, has been able to request \$145,000. Mr. Hoffman stated that he doesn't know if that's for State Road paving this year, but they do need to add \$45,000 more to that so that they can spend those dollars when they receive them.

Mr. Hoffman stated that, in the CDBG Fund, they are adding a little over \$400,000. Instead of doing a separate piece of legislation as a carry-forward to CDBG dollars from last year, they are adding it to this piece of legislation. That represents CDBG year-forward numbers. In the Capital Projects Fund, the City received a grant for the Mill-Pond Greenway Trailhead. That was added to this piece of legislation, and that was \$150,000. The Grant Revenue is in the amount of \$625,000. The rest of that will be match money for the Capital Projects Fund. The Sanitation Fund and Garage Fund go hand in hand. Earlier this year, the maintenance worker for the sanitation vehicles left. That was a contracted service. They have tried to find another contract service, but that came back with no bids. The best proposal they came up with is to add an additional person in the garage to be able to work on sanitation vehicles. This will supplement what that person that left was doing and make sure all the City's sanitation vehicles will be out on

**Finance and Appropriations Committee**  
**July 24, 2017 – Page 3**

the road. They are increasing the Sanitation Fund and increasing the Garage Fund for the rest of the year for that person.

Mrs. Klinger asked if the full-year shift in the cost of adding the person is \$30,000 or \$60,000. Mr. Hoffman stated that the full-year cost is estimated to be around \$60,000.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-55 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iona. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-56**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Ohio History Connection for the restoration of three panels of the Bigelow Lodge-Willard-Tifft stain glass window in the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel; and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger stated that the total expenditure regarding this grant is \$300,000 and some change. They are receiving almost \$16,000 in Federal funds. They have \$2,200 in in-kind architectural services that are being donated. The Oakwood Cemetery Ladies Association is donating \$6,200. Three panels will be removed. The broken glass will be repaired. They'll repair and replace the lead panes, clean it and install preventative glass.

Mr. Guerra, Planning Director, stated that the panes are in bad condition. They've never really been renovated since they have been put in. There's plastic on the outside like a storm window. A bullet hole is in one of these windows. It's something that the Women's Association for the chapel and cemetery have been looking at doing. They've been doing a little bit at a time. There are grants every year through the CLG Community. The application this year is to do a whole section of those windows. Mr. Colavecchio asked if there was insurance in place that will replace these windows in case of vandalism. Mr. Guerra stated that the City has insurance for the cemetery, but he would have to check to see if the stained-glass windows were covered.

Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-56 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

Mrs. Klinger stated that Mr. Hoffman would go over Report 21 today, as he will not be present next week.

Mr. Hoffman stated that, in the General Fund, under the Admissions Tax Item, there have been some decent numbers coming from Blossom. There have been the same number of events this year as last year and attendance has gone up. They will continue to follow that as time goes on. In the Cemetery Fund, burials have been way down this year, so they haven't seen the revenue that they've seen over the past years. In the Municipal Tax Income, they had a very good June. Last month, they were up a net impact of about \$275,000 to \$300,000. The majority of this has been in the net profit realm. He believes it may be a comeback of companies looking at their books and seeing better numbers. Last year, it was kind of soft in the first and second quarter, and it picked

**Finance and Appropriations Committee**  
**July 24, 2017 – Page 4**

up a little bit in the third and fourth quarter. It has picked up the first and second quarter of this year, so they have seen some better numbers there. In the SCMR Fund, cable franchise fees are still down. In the Leisure Time Fund, under charges for services, the Natatorium is up \$27,347, Brookledge is up \$1,742 and Downview is up \$2,054. Waterworks had a slow start. Over the past several weeks, the weather has been hot and they've been doing very well. There won't be a Report 21 in August, but he expects to see good numbers from Waterworks coming in.

Mr. Hoffman stated that, in the Self Insurance Fund, under Hospitalization and Dental, they have started to see a little bit of leveling off. Prescriptions are continuing to go up. They have been watching this very closely and discussing with their health care consultant ways to try to keep prescription drugs down. This isn't unique amongst their group, as most groups around the area have seen dramatic increases in prescription drugs. They are trying to help contain these increases. Mrs. Klinger asked if Mr. Hoffman anticipated having to make a General Fund transfer to the Self-Insurance Fund. Mr. Hoffman stated that he doesn't foresee that at this point. They have been tracking it very closely. They are very close to revenues coming in. They did get an increase this year in their contribution from employees. Last year, they had a surplus of revenue. This year, they are having more of an in-line to slightly above their budget numbers. They have a pretty healthy fund balance in the Self Insurance Fund that would be able to cover any appropriation increase they may see at the end of the year.

Mr. Iona asked if most of the money in Admissions Tax is coming from Blossom Music Center. Mr. Hoffman stated that it is Blossom Music Center and Funny Stop. The money they receive from Cinemark goes right back out to Stark. The only other item is the Blossom Carnival of Horrors, but those are very small items compared to the concerts at Blossom Music Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.