

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
October 15, 2007

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Carol Klinger

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the September 17, 2007 and October 1, 2007 Finance Committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-130
Temp. Ord. B-131
Temp. Res. B-132
Temp. Ord. B-133

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-130

An ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of a package policy of municipal insurance, and declaring an emergency.

Scott Fitzsimmons stated this authorizes the City to renew the municipal insurance policy for a one year period. The amount is significantly under budget. Mr. Gorbach asked if it was the same package covering the same items as in the past. Mr. Fitzsimmons indicated it was, and added it was through Wichert.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-130 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-131

An ordinance determining the video service provider fee to be paid by a person offering video service in the City pursuant to a state-issued video service authorization; authorizing the Mayor to give notice to the video service provider of the video service provider fee; and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Arrington stated that the State legislature passed S.B. 117 this past summer which basically eliminated the ability of local governments to have cable franchises. It states what items will be included in gross income for purposes of determining a fee. Franchise fees would not include income from advertising revenues unless a city passes a law stating so. Cities all over the state are passing legislation similar to this. It establishes our local franchise fee at 5%, which is the highest that can be established by statute.

Mr. Gorbach asked if this will also cover if an additional provider performs the same service within the City. Mr. Arrington said it will apply to everyone. He added that the City had also entered into an agreement AT&T. So far, AT&T has not indicated whether it plans to go on the state's agreement as opposed to ours but if it does, our agreement will terminate. Mr. Gorbach asked about the agreement with AT&T whereby AT&T is to remove poles. Mr. Arrington stated that so far 100 poles have been removed. He added with respect to Time Warner that there are two agreements--one that the City entered into with Time Warner and one that the City entered into with Adelphia which was bought-out by Time Warner. Mrs. Pyke indicated one of the apartment buildings in her Ward has had cable through a totally different company for the past ten years. Mr. Arrington stated he would look into that.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-131 for approval.

Temp. Res. B-132

A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer, and declaring an emergency.

Scott Fitzsimmons stated this legislation was required by O.R.C. §5705.34. The City must pass legislation accepting the County's property tax rates. The County had received an extension , which makes the City's deadline November 5, 2007.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Res. B-132 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-133

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract and/or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of mobile data terminals for use by the fire department, and declaring an emergency.

Paul Moledor stated this will update the MDT units making them compatible with the new dispatch center and is in this year's budget. This will give them 19 MDTs which they can receive call information as well as locating calls and being able to determine where each unit is in relation to where the call originates. There are currently 17 units and this legislation will add another two. Counting Station 5, that will give three units for each station plus two to the mobile command vehicles. The old units are obsolete and cannot be traded in. Mr. Moledor stated they are giving them to the IS Department who can hopefully recycle any part(s) that cannot be salvaged. Mr. Arrington stated he is preparing a substitution which will contain language regarding leasing vs. purchasing so that the City can get the best price.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-133 for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.