

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Finance Committee Meeting
July 21, 2003

Members: Mr. Gorbach, Chair
Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Barnhart

Mr. Gorbach called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the June 16, 2003 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

Temp. Ord. No. B-96
Temp. Ord. No. B-104
Temp. Ord. No. B-105
Temp. Ord. No. B-106
Temp. Ord. No. B-107
Temp. Ord. No. B-108

DISCUSSION

Temp. Ord. No. B-96

Mr. Gorbach read B-96 (second reading). Mr. Gorbach stated that individuals in the unions have other amenities that go with their job classifications that the nonbargaining individuals do not have, such as uniforms, gloves, etc. This was a way to get them to a level of benefit equality. Mr. Brodzinski stated some of the benefits they added were (i) they went from two personal leave days to three; (ii) a sixth week of vacation is now earned after 20 years vs. 25 years; (iii) when they are eligible to retire, they can now cash out 960 hours of their sick leave by having the ability to sell 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 in their last three years prior to retirement.

Committee recommended bringing out B-96.

Temp. Ord. No. B-104

Mr. Gorbach read B-104 (second reading). Bob Leonard, Sanitation Superintendent, stated they took sealed bids in July, 2001 and entered into an agreement with Akron Central Equipment. There was a provision in the contract if they could mutually agree on the rates. Mr. Gorbach asked if it was still more economical to outsource the service of these vehicles. Mr. Leonard stated it was and that this company had the best rates and track record. Mr. Gorbach pointed

out the revised budget sheet showed a new number of \$200,000 for this year and \$193,208.66 for last year.

Committee recommended bringing out B-104.

Temp. Ord. No. B-105

Mr. Gorbach read B-105 (second reading). Mr. Brodzinski stated this is the fourth year for James G. Zupka to do the City's audit. Because they've done past audits, this company knows the City and the City's structure. It is a huge advantage to have people come in and hit the ground running. After this year, the City will be going out for bids again. In order to do this year's audit, we need an ordinance. This company will be assisting the City in changing structure for GASB 34.

Committee recommended bringing out B-105.

Temp. Ord. No. B-106

Mr. Gorbach read B-106 (second reading). Chief Conley stated this year was different because we have upgraded the 165 MDT licenses, that are now included in the maintenance cost of the proposal. Mr. Gorbach asked if the upgrade was included. Chief Conley stated the maintenance was. The two had been split in the past but this year is included. Mr. Gorbach asked if they were still Motorola. Chief Conley stated they were. He also indicated this is the sixth year in the MDT program. Mr. Gorbach asked if there was any down time with these. Chief Conley stated they have been down occasionally or they have experienced slow response time from the computers but they are very effective on the road. Mr. Gorbach asked if the contracts with other cities come into play. Chief Conley stated those cities are paying a user fee to Cuyahoga Falls. He indicated the fire department also shares this.

Committee recommended bringing out B-106.

Temp. Ord. No. B-107

Mr. Gorbach read B-107 (second reading). Mr. Sabino stated this ordinance was to obtain a firm for consultation on traffic matters for the safety of the citizens. In reviewing complaints, they advise how to handle that. They review designs and drawings from other departments like Planning Commission, Engineering and other contractors who submit drawings to the City. They also provide personnel for field studies. Mr. Gorbach asked if we use TraffPro. Mr. Sabino stated that is one of the companies. He also has inquiries for two others. Mrs. Hummel indicated that the Board of Control minutes indicate that TraffPro is doing a study regarding the traffic around the high school. Mr. Sabino stated there is a lot of congestion during the times when students are picked up and dropped off. Mrs.

Hummel wondered why the study wasn't done before the City closed Third Street. Mr. Sabino stated that several years ago there was a study done. The schools present more problems with kids driving and parents dropping off or picking up. He didn't know if it was specifically addressed in that study. The current study involves Fourth Street, Stow, Sixth Street and also the intersection at Portage Trail. Mrs. Hummel stated that the intersection at Fourth and Portage is a problem regarding the length of the light on Fourth, which holds red a long time. Based on Board of Control, that is outside the scope of the work for this. The fee is \$4,800. Mrs. Hummel asked how much was spent with TraffPro over and above the \$28,600. Mr. Sabino stated it was \$36,070 in total and includes the \$25,000 grant money by Governor's Highway Office. \$11,120 was out of the City's funds. Mrs. Hummel asked if that was in addition to the \$28,600. Mr. Sabino stated it was. Mrs. Hummel felt the City needs to investigate how to make things better around the high school. Second and Oakwood is working well. She asked Mr. Sabino if he anticipated looking seriously at a contractor other than TraffPro. Mr. Sabino stated he did and, in fact, had two inquiries out. Mrs. Klinger stated that the study that was done on Oakwood and Fourth did not go up to Portage Trail. She is glad to see a study encompassing the whole area around the high school. Mayor Robart stated they did a preliminary study on the closure of Third Street. It is difficult to really see the impact until you actually close it. They want to see what other things can be done to alleviate the congestion around the school. Second Street helped but it is not enough.

Committee recommended bringing out B-107.

Temp. Ord. No. B-108

Mr. Gorbach read B-108 (second reading). Mr. Gorbach stated he spoke with Mrs. Truby earlier regarding if GGC bid the job at a certain price, the City should not pay more money just because there was a delay. Mrs. Truby told him the project had an estimated 12-month completion date with their contract running out at the end of August. We are now looking at the middle of October. He did not feel GGC should be penalized because of bad weather and was leaning toward paying the bill. Mrs. Truby added that she attributed the low change order to the fact that GGC was so on top of things. Mr. Flinn stated he attended several construction meetings which were held on Thursdays. He feels the City is fortunate to have GGC representing it. Falls River Square is ready to open earlier than anticipated. He does not think GGC should be penalized for problems they ran into with the builder of the pavilion, plumbers strike or the rebidding situation. He believes the City needs to keep them on board to make sure City money is being spent wisely. Mrs. Hummel stated she does not support this legislation. She stated that in the original presentation by GGC in October, 2001, they wanted to be the architect and construction manager on the project and \$296,000 was approved at that time. This request for \$36,000 is in addition to those figures. Mrs. Hummel asked GGC in October, 2001 if they could build the project for \$3.8 million, the estimate at that time. They assured

Council they could along with some nice amenities. Before the first shovel of dirt was turned, the cost was over \$3.8 million. She based her decision to hire GGC on their assurance that they could build the project for a certain amount of money and we are now in excess of \$5 million at this point.

Mr. Bauer asked if the original contract was until the end of August or the end of the contract. Mr. Gorbach indicated it was for an estimated 12 months build period. Mr. Bauer stated since it was for the whole project that they estimated would take 12 months, he felt the City should not be under any obligation to increase the contract. Mr. Arrington agreed that the City has no legal obligation. Mr. Barnhart stated that the contract may have originally stated a 12 month period and felt just because there have been some unforeseen changes, GGC should not be penalized. It is his opinion that GGC has done a good job, and he is in favor of the legislation. Mrs. Klinger believes it would be foolish for the City to pull out of the contract at this time. She feels the City needs someone to hold the contractors' feet to the fire and thinks this amount is worth that reassurance. Mr. Bauer stated he was not suggesting that the City pull out of the contract. He just did not see a reason the City needed to pay the extra money. He asked Mr. Arrington if it would be a breach of contract if GGC walked out. Mr. Arrington stated it would be.

Committee recommended bringing out B-108.

Finance Committee adjourned at 7:37 p.m.