

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting December 12, 2005

Members: Mr. Flinn, Chairman; Mr. Barnhart, Vice Chair; Mr. Gorbach, Member.

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:40 p.m. All members were present. The minutes of December 5, 2005 were approved as submitted.

Held Legislation:

B-125	An Ordinance amending section 151.06 of the codified ordinances and declaring an emergency.
B-165	An Ordinance providing for current operating expenses of the city of Cuyahoga Falls by appropriating, re-appropriating and transferring money within and for the various funds hereinafter set forth, and declaring an emergency.
B-166	An Ordinance adopting the report of staffing for the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the Year 2006 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Flinn reconvened at 6:40 p.m. to discuss the budget according to the 2005 schedule:

Storm Water Utilities:

There is a decrease in capital outlay which shows the 19.42% decrease in the budget. The Victor/Jennings Storm Sewer Infrastructure, EPA Mandated Storm Sewer Modeling and the Purdue/Graham Design are budgeted for. The working model is required by the EPA to reduce the maximum daily loads into our streams. We are looking to pursue this and get it up and running by next year. Mr. Gorbach would like to see a list of projects from the funds that are being collected with the \$2 fee. Mr. Demasi is working on a project and attempting to secure easements. Some of the projects are \$200,000-\$400,000 and Mr. Brodzinski will make the changes and list the additional projects, even if it is just the design portion.

Information Services:

There is an increase of capital outlay and contractual services for the prepayment of IBM computer maintenance (3 years) to receive a 20% savings. The budget is increased 15.7%. The eGovernment needs \$166,611 and the iSeries Computer Hardware Upgrade is \$65,000. Mr. Konich indicates with the next year, eGovernment will be expanding to the Park/Recreation with the ability to sign up for classes offered. Building permits will be online along with city income tax information. The iSeries is a major upgrade to our hardware. Consolidating will also reduce our maintenance costs. Mr. Gorbach asks about the income tax portion of e-Government. Mr. Konich indicates the form was online last year, but this year with the enhancement, you can bring last years information up and you can key in all your current information, print it out and attach the w-2's. When that is submitted, it is updated and scanned in our system very easily.

Print Shop:

Decrease of 1.82% decrease due to employee hours budgeted. Mrs. Klinger asks about the employee hours. The operators aren't being used as much and many people are doing their own printing.

Income Tax:

There is an increase of 3.3% due to operating transfers and employee step and longevity increases.

Utility Billing:

There is a 1.85% decrease for the capital outlay and other operations (direct charges).

Sewer:

Decrease in capital outlay and 3.11% decrease as compared to last year. New projects include sanitary infrastructure (6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th Streets) (Williams Street), (Misc.) and two dump trucks along with a ½ ton Pick up Truck. We have \$20,000 budgeted for cameraing through contractors. We didn't have many streets to "foam" but will expect more this year. We purchased 5 monitors to view the sanitary overflow. Mr. Walters asks if we are going to continue to test? Are we using the McCoy study of the sanitary sewers? Mr. Christopher indicates we will rotate the monitors to control the overflow. The more active ones will have to be addressed. Do we have a list of projects for 2007? Some of the areas of the city may need smoke tested, but that will happen with the design portion. The McCoy deficiencies are still being addressed.

Water:

There is a 5.46% due to decrease in capital outlay. There are several projects: Water Line Infrastructure (Williams St), Chart Road Widening, Water Line on Wyoga Lake Road, Water Line (miscellaneous), City Water Pump #5 Valve has been out, State Road Chlorine Feed System, Water Plant Well Field Telemetry Upgrades, Chlorine Pump, Boiler at Water Plant, (Leaf Machine will be moved to Sewer). We have to physically go to the wells to turn them on/off. Updating the Telemetry system will allow this to be done at the plant. There is a note for the water line/taps for revenue of \$200,000 on Wyoga Lake Road.

Police:

There is a change of 4.8% increasing due to direct/indirect charges and utilities. There are four new Police Cruisers with light bars/sirens. The inspection of the jail in the city indicates we are now a 12-day jail vs. a 5 day jail. Prisoner fund will be the largest increase. Our fuel consumption has increased and our maintenance agreements with our computer and technology end have increased. We have 29 cruisers in our fleet and 10 detective bureau cars. The 4 trade out vehicles will be either traded or used by another department, whichever is best for the city. The Police Department contracts out exams/physical and psychological during hiring. The LEADS is also out of that fund and comes out monthly. We have one full time K-9 and one stand by (part-time) unit. The cost of operating the K9 is for food/toys and less vet bills this year. Mr. Walters asks about the Military pay. We have 3 employees that are out on military pay; one will be back in January, one is in Special Forces and out, and another is going to be sent to Iraq.

Fire:

There is an increase of 3.57% due to step increases. There are two major projects including the Lifepak 12 Defibrillators along with Fire House Scheduling Module Software Upgrade. This is for EMS reporting and tracking training hours. Our fire hoses and fire hydrant maintenance is also on this software. We have 84 firefighters and this will help us manage and schedule a month out. We are currently at full staff and Station #5 will open Sept/Oct 2006. Fire Safety Educator is Ms. Coleman and she is part time.

Don Nelsch, 2545 North Haven Blvd. wonders how we are going to open a new station without new employees. Mr. Brodzinski indicates we have "families" already and are strategically placing them now. This will just provide one of those "families" a home.

Technical Service:

There is a 3.42% increase due to other operation- direct charges. Mr. Gorbach asks about the traffic consultants. It is now a calendar year contract. The current contract expires in 5 years, we are currently in the third year. This line is just the yearly cost.

Community Development:

The budget is 6.03% increase over 2005 due to indirect charges. The contractual other is flexible for small engineering and architectural things.

Riverfront Centre District:

There is a 12.61% increase due to step increase and other materials/utilities. There is an increase in personnel due to the ice rink being operated this year by us. This is truly a good look at the budget for this newly created department.

The Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and will continue on December 12, 2005.