

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

December 20, 2004

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

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. The Finance minutes from 12/6/04 and 12/13/04 were approved as submitted.

Pieces of Legislation this evening (second readings):

Mr. Flinn will hold the following Ordinances until completion of budget discussions:

A-179	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.
A-180	An Ordinance making the annual appropriations for the current expenses, other expenditures and the capital outlays of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2005, and declaring an emergency.
A-183	An Ordinance adopting the report on staffing for the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the Year 2005 and declaring an emergency.

A-182	An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts for billing and collection of emergency medical transporting fees, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Brodzinski indicates we started transporting patients in the city. We used a collection agency for non-payments. We have renegotiated a contract at 7.5 % for 2005, 7% for 2006/2007 if we allow a three-year contract. We have been very happy with their services.

Mrs. Pyke asks about the feedback from the residents about this company? Mr. Brodzinski indicates he has not heard of any. We are at the maximum level billed with the allowable amount from Medicare.

The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-182

A-184	An Ordinance establishing the composition of the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.
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There are two changes in the ordinance, specifically in a temp. Part time laborer position. The employees are going over 1040 hours per year. Chief Snyder indicates one person enters bill information from EMS. It is critical for billing accuracy. The other job is our Public Safety Educator. Due to requests and demands, she has been getting into the schools at every level for public awareness. Mr. Flinn questions if there are grants available? Chief Snyder indicates they have looked for as much funding as possible. Mrs. Klinger asks about the background checks since they are working with children. They are not currently, but may be in the future.

The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-184

Miscellaneous Business:

Open Issues from Prior Meeting: None.

Street: We will have an increase of \$390,000 for salt this winter since last winter was unusually harsh. We pay a contractor to conveyor the salt into the barns and the rest of the money goes to the contractors for the senior plow program. The new vehicles (1/2 ton) will not have a plow on them until the warranty

expires. Traffic sign costs were reduced to meet the budget model. All the materials come out of that account. Chuck indicates we are replacing existing street signs with galvanized U-Channel steel signs.

Sanitation: Budget is down 1.2% from 2004 and they have a request for a collection vehicle. There is an agreement for \$500,000 from the sanitation fund for the agreement with Waste Management. There will be a loan from the electric fund for \$400,000 to stay in compliance with this agreement and the sanitation fund will be paying back the electric fund over the next four years. We want to maintain our rates through 2007 by reducing the number of routes. When we go to full automation, there will be no turn on the cart. There will be public meetings prior to the implementing Route 3. The new carts increased \$4.30 each. The end of spring clean up will be the end of May and that is when the Route 3 residents must comply with the new program. The collection vehicle we are purchasing is fully automated. We want to get to three one-man routes. Mayor Robart indicates that most people have now adapted with the new program and have found peace with this plan. Mr. Walters asks about the Workers Comp claims. Mr. Leonard indicates there has only been a small cut on his finger with no lost time from work.

Electric: 1.78% higher as compared to 2004. The group of Amp Ohio found that depending on their health of their electric fund, there is a way of charging a bit more during one year and giving it back the next year. We will receive \$241,275 in 2005 that relate to charges of 2004. We want to give it back to the residential customers. We are estimating \$300,000 in 2006 for charges in 2005 and we are going to give it back currently vs. a year behind. Mr. Gorbach asks if we can acknowledge the credit on their bills? Mrs. Carr will check with utility billing and see if on the "total power cost factor" line, we can see a rebate. Mr. Flinn feels there should be a credit on their bill it. The two new substations at Bailey Road and Oakpark are the major costs. He wants to provide a backup of services. ODOT will be working on the bridges and we have conduit that has asbestos that needs cleaned up. We also need bucket trucks and meter vans. We need poles, switches, and other equipment. More OSHA requirements are changing the way we do business. Circuit breakers are being replaced over the next few years in our substations. Replacement of traffic lights with the new LED lights are crucial. The wind turbines can be placed in the Bolich area and hooked up to the schools or preferably the fire department. Mr. Bye indicates the old bucket trucks are either sold or traded. Some smaller communities are usually interested in the vehicles.

Water: 17.3% increase over 2004's budget due to contractual service as part of the water agreement with Akron. We will pay \$300,000 to Waste Management for that piece. Mr. Christopher indicates that \$600,000 for Tenth St. replacement of the line. If there is a break, we would like to redo the whole section. \$17,000 for a new van, but the old vehicle will be used for the new camera sewer equipment. There will be 3 new 1/2ton pick up trucks, with the old ones going to Ground Maintenance and the other to Parks/Recreation. Chlorine equipment needs replaced periodically. There is \$50,000 request to monitor the sewer overflows based on the EPA mandate. Mr. Gorbach has gone through the sewer/sanitary process and has a terrible root problem with his downspouts. He is encouraged with the program, so far, and is using the legislation that was passed recently.

Sewer: 5.91% higher than 2004's budget. Increase in employees, including health/medical insurance. We will use tap-in fees from Tamsin Park to begin the Jennings project and the Woodridge sanitary sewer. There is a rate increase that is less than 20% to be brought before Council. Most residents have all four utilities. We had the lawsuit with the county that needed paid, and in 2003/2004 we spent \$260,000 in moral claims from the floods. This is compared to almost 10 years worth of moral claims. We will be spending more money on big projects, and we need a bigger buffer in this fund in case of a big emergency. We will still be the lowest in Summit County except for Barberton and Akron, who have their own sewer plants. There will be two new hires requested for a future proposal of a "Camera Crew Inspection Team". There will be a Storm Water Administrator through the Engineering Dept. personnel. This will evolve as we purchase the camera and move toward the future proposal. The official inspections started 12/1/04. There have been 15 inspections with 8 passes/7 failures. Most of them have been poor laterals that need

repaired. These are not sales, but just requests from residents. We are looking at camera purchases. Sanitary sewers can be lined vs. replaced at a fraction of the cost (\$25 - \$40 per linear foot). We may put more money in lining sewers next year. Jennings needs to be replaced, but the Munroe Falls Avenue needs replaced also. The old F150 would go to the Grounds Dept. and the other may be used for the camera equipment. Secondly, Vincent Ave. is storm/sewer repair that is \$600,000. We are anticipating a \$300,000 expenditure with grant money of half (\$150,000). Mr. Potts asks if lining a lateral is an option for the homeowner? Mr. Bell indicates it is an option for the homeowner but the process is a little different. You enter through the home. Mrs. Pyke asks if the new Storm Water Administrator can be a key person to talk to the public and help with the residents. Mr. Brodzinski indicates the program is still voluntary and we are working with the realtors.

Storm Drainage Utility Fund: This is a new fund from 2004. Victor Avenue will be the construction part of the project. The assessment portion also has some costs for private property repair. Mr. Gorbach acknowledges how the fund is being collected and spent quickly. He appreciates the response to the residents.

Engineering: 2.07% increase vs. 2004 due to increase in medical charges and other operations. The direct charges for data processing to participate in the e-government along with vehicles/garage expenses to keep Mr. Bell's employees out in the field.

Building: 1.01% increase over 2004. There are some upgrades in software for e-government and replacing a 93 Plymouth Acclaim. We are still using outside examiners and our backlog is a couple of weeks out. Our new examiner is Kathy Richards.

Parks: decrease of .001% compared to 2004. They need a zero turn mower along with an infield pro ball field maintenance machine. Staffing levels were adjusted for the Accountant position. We are shifting the accountant position from the Park/Recreation back into the Finance Department. The mower is being replaced and the ball field machine allows us to get all the way around at Water Works.

Recreation Levy: 5.65% decrease due to decrease in capital outlay and some various other items such as capital requests. Mr. Pierson indicates the softball complex with the lighting will provide a place for children and adult softball. The lights will then be off a Harrington and at Ross Park. The Babb Run Park was hit hard with the storms. We asked FEMA for some money. Park site playground improvement is an annual expense to upgrade our parks.

Leisure Time: Decrease in budget of 17.5% due to the decrease in capital outlay. The final payments for the Natatorium will be in February 2006. The fund is going in the right direction. There will be a new Funbrella at Water Works. The Utility carts at Brookledge help us haul things onto the course. The Blower helps clean the course, provide aeration, and leaf control. The Party Shelter at Downview would be for parties. We are buying new carts not used carts. Mr. Potts asks if we can lease them? The utility carts are harder to lease due to the abuse. We can use them year around.

Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.