

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

December 20, 2021

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Mary Nichols-Rhodes
Jeff Iula

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the November 8, 2021, and November 15, 2021, Finance Committee meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Res. B-118
Temp. Ord. B-119
Temp. Ord. B-120
Temp. Ord. B-121
Temp. Ord. B-122
Temp. Ord. B-123
Temp. Ord. B-124
Temp. Ord. B-125
Temp. Ord. B-126
Temp. Ord. B-127

Discussion:

Temp. Res. B-118

A resolution requesting the Summit County Fiscal Officer to make advance distribution of tax receipts payable to the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Resolution B-118 to Council. Ohio Revised Code §321.33 provides for semi-annual distribution of tax receipts collected by the County Fiscal Officer and payable to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Ohio Revised Code §321.34 provides that when local authorities by resolution so request, the County Fiscal Officer shall make advance payment of tax receipts that are in the county treasury to the credit of the account of the local authority, to the extent such tax receipts are lawfully applicable to the purpose of the current fiscal year in which the request is made. In accordance with Ohio Revised Code §321.34, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will request that the County Fiscal Officer make advance distribution of local tax receipts now in collection and normally payable in 2022, for the 2021 tax year.

Mr. Stams asked why an annual ordinance is needed. Mr. Hoffman stated that the Ohio Revised Code requires that they make an ordinance formally requesting those advancement of payments. Mr. Gorbach asked if this ordinance is to request the payments in advance of when they would normally receive them. Mr. Hoffman stated that that is correct.

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Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Res. B-118 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-119

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, presented Temporary Ordinance B-119 to Council. Article VI, Sections 7 and 8 of the City Charter provides that City Council may revise, amend and supplement budgetary appropriations during the fiscal year, and may authorize the transfer of unencumbered appropriations within various accounts. In order to provide money to pay employee compensation, other expenses and capital expenditures during the fiscal year 2021, money will be hereby appropriated, re-appropriated and transferred from the unexpended appropriations and from the un-appropriated fund balances of the departments or divisions as set forth in Exhibits A and B attached to the original ordinance.

Mr. Gorbach stated that this is another annual ordinance referred to as the clean-up ordinance. He stated that he appreciates Mr. Hoffman sending Council the exhibit and journal entry notes as to the reasoning for each of the changes. The big one there is increased appropriations for income tax revenue they did not have budgeted. They had a good year for income tax collections coming out of 2020.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-119 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-120

An ordinance amending the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Title 7, Chapter 941, Refuse Collection and Disposal, establishing definitions, rates, and regulations for the collection and disposal of solid waste in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-120 to Council. It is necessary in the operation of the City's solid waste collection and disposal system to set rates and charges in order to provide sufficient funds for the costs and expenses of operations. The solid waste collection rate has not been raised since 2004.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the sanitation rate increase proposed in this ordinance is doing exactly what was discussed at budget. It is a \$2.90 increase to all the rate classes except for the condominium rates, which will be increased \$1.40. The rates under the senior rate and grandfathered rates were not changed. In the ordinance that was proposed, there were couple of

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small language changes that reflect some cleaning up, because the last time this was passed was in 2004.

Mr. Gorbach stated that nobody likes to raise rates, but they have residents that demand premium service with all the City's departments. The City achieves that through the various departments and the services. Unfortunately, costs go up, and in order to continue to create that type of service, adjustments need to be made. He stated that he is glad they were able to look at the different rates and recognize the senior rates are more sensitive to an increase and did not increase those rates as much.

Mr. Miller asked how many households in the city participate in the recycling program. Mr. Jerry Crawford, Assistant Superintendent for the Sanitation Department, stated approximately 95 percent. Not everybody participates every week. Mr. Miller asked, on a monthly basis, what percentage of that is contaminated where the recycling center would not accept it. Mr. Crawford stated that they have recently done studies on that and, last spring, there was an audit. Fortunately, they have helped keep costs down. Even though rates are going up with the new recycling contract, it is not going to damage them that badly. They reduced the contamination rate from 31 percent down to 17 percent. Their goal for next year is to see it get down to a 10-percent margin.

Mr. Stams asked how much money they are authorized to use in these purchases. Mr. Gorbach stated that he does not know if it is specific to a line item in the budget or not, but it is what these departments have budgeted for the different components they need to run their department.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-120 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-121

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials and supplies for use by the Sanitation Division during 2022, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Jerry Crawford, Assistant Superintendent for the Sanitation Department, presented Temporary Ordinance B-121 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of the following materials and supplies for use in the Sanitation Division: Wheeled Refuse Containers.

Mr. Crawford stated that this ordinance is their cost for carts. They budgeted for 3,000 carts replaced over the course of the year for new customers and yard waste customers and the amount that they put into the budget for it. Mr. Gorbach asked how many replacement carts they go through. Mr. Crawford stated that they go through 70 carts a month replacing for damage. Those are carts that are 10 to 14 years old. Most replacements are from the much older carts. Some residents who do not like to have their cart get dirty and they do not want to clean it request for it to come in and get serviced.

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Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-121 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-122

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials and supplies for use by the Street Division during 2022, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Jerry Crawford, Assistant Superintendent for the Sanitation Department, presented Temporary Ordinance B-122 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of the following materials and supplies for use by the Street Division during 2022: Rock Salt and Asphaltic Products.

Mr. Crawford stated that this ordinance would be for annual materials that they use, white salt and green salt for the snow removal program. They are looking for 7,000 tons of the white salt and 1,000 tons of the green salt. The other \$225,000 is for the asphalt program that is done every year.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-122 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-123

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain services, materials, supplies, and equipment for use by the Electric Division during 2022, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Rodney Troxell, Electric Assistant Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance B-123 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of the following services, materials, supplies and equipment for use by the Electric Division during 2022:

Transformers	Watt-hour Meters
Meter Sockets	Instrument Transformers
Lamps	Luminaires
Cable and Wire	Line Material
Underground Material	Switches
Miscellaneous Hardware	Surge Arresters/Fault Indicators
Substation Batteries	Breaker Contacts
Rubber Protection Equipment	Climbing Equipment and Tools
Fuel	Directional Boring
Distribution Underground Replacement	

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Mr. Gorbach asked what the lead times are looking like. Mr. Troxell stated that, on transformers, anywhere from one to two years, They are looking to refurbish things like that. They are in good shape, because they anticipated this coming. They have slowed down on replacements due to upgrades because they are holding onto inventory for emergencies.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-123 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-124

An ordinance amending ordinance 100-2020 authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials, supplies and services for use by the Garage Division during 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. John Campbell, Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, presented Temporary Ordinance B-124 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of certain materials, supplies and services for use by the Garage Division during 2021: Fuel, Tires and Repairs and Parts The authorized aggregate expenditure limit authorized by Ordinance 100-2020 is increased from \$1,416,000 to \$1,548,000.

Mr. Gorbach asked what the specific reason is for this ordinance. Mr. Campbell stated that this ordinance is going to bring up the balance on some of the main accounts back to black ink. Outside contract services provided by vendors have raised rates. There are some major repairs that cannot be anticipated. Projecting is rough in the current times.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the reason they did not provide a budget sheet for this ordinance is because, in the ordinance, it lists the expenditure limit increase.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-124 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-125

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain services, materials, and supplies for use by the Garage Division during 2022, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. John Campbell, Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, presented Temporary Ordinance B-125 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of certain materials, supplies and services for use by the Garage Division during 2022: Fuel, Tires, Repairs and Parts.

Mr. Campbell stated that the learning curve has risen, because they made projections on where they might be seeing some additional increases going into 2022 based on last year.

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Mr. Gorbach asked if they are increasing projections for all four of those items listed. Mr. Campbell stated that there is a significant increase in fuel pricing and tires and across-the-board increases for all four of those categories.

Mr. Gorbach stated that, during the budget talks, they mentioned looking for an electric vehicle. Mr. Campbell stated that they may have to change the intended manufacturer from Lordstown or Ford, but it is looking better for that.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-125 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-126

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, or the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase or lease of various vehicles and related equipment for use by the City, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. John Campbell, Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, presented Temporary Ordinance B-126 to Council. The Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, or the Director of Public Service is hereby authorized to enter into contracts for the purchase and/or lease of the vehicles and related equipment listed on Exhibit A attached to the original ordinance. Notwithstanding and as an exception to Section 181.06 of the Codified Ordinances, expenditures made under the contracts authorized by this ordinance shall not exceed, in the aggregate, \$3,951,000.00, without further consent of City Council by ordinance. The Director of Finance will be directed to make payment for same out of monies lawfully appropriated therefor from the funds as indicated in Exhibit A, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Campbell stated that this was less money than was spent the last year on the vehicles. They will get a lot of value out of all these things. Some are fairly predictable, like refuse trucks and patrol cars for the police department.

Mr. Gorbach stated that he is glad they are able to continue to rotate them and bring in new. All of these vehicles go to serve residents, so it is great to be able continue to do that.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-126 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-127

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of the City's requirements of certain services, materials and supplies for use by the Water and Sewer Division during 2022, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Russ Kring, Water Utilities Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance B-127 to Council. The Director of Public Service is hereby authorized to enter into a contract or contracts,

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according to law, for the purchase of the City's requirements for the following services, materials and supplies for use by the Water and Sewer Division during 2022:

Water Treatment Chemicals	Utility Patch Program
Meters and Related Materials	Miscellaneous Equipment, Repairs, and Repair Parts
Waterline and Sewer Line Supplies	Fire Hydrants and Related Materials

Notwithstanding and as an exception to Section 181.06 of the Codified Ordinances, expenditures made under the contracts authorized by this ordinance shall not exceed, in the aggregate, \$821,620, without further consent of City Council by ordinance. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Water Fund and Sewer Fund, Line Item Other Operations.

Mr. Kring stated that these are their annual requirements for products used in the water stockroom such as parts for distribution repairs and sewer repairs. The largest line item is for the chemicals used in treatment of the water at the water plant.

Mr. Gorbach asked if he has a better picture of lead times for this department. Mr. Kring stated that it seems to be getting longer as the new year approaches. They are going to do a few things differently next year. They upped their purchase orders to certain vendors earlier in the year to try to get ahead of the game.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-127 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.