

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

October 2, 2023

Members: Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Chair
Mike Brillhart
Adam Miller

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the September 5, 2023 Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-104

Temp. Ord. B-105

Temp. Ord. B-106

Temp. Ord. B-107

Temp. Ord. B-111

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-104

An ordinance authorizing the procurement of Pro-Construction & Renovation, LLC to provide housing rehabilitation services and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-104 to Council. The City receives Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. CDBG funds can be utilized to provide decent, safe, and sanitary living environments for low-to-moderate income residents, ensure homes meet the standards outlined in the City of Cuyahoga Falls Building Code, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Housing Quality Standards. The City has a Minor Home Rehabilitation Program to assist low-to-moderate-income residents in addressing safety and health concerns within their homes. The CDBG Loan and Grant Review Committee initially authorized the rehabilitation of a home at 1321 Anderson Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221, as part of the CDBG Minor Housing Rehabilitation Program, in an amount not to exceed \$32,290, to be completed by Pro-Construction & Renovation, LLC. The contractor, Pro-Construction & Renovation, LLC, will exceed the statutory amount for the program year 2023 and requires Council approval.

The City will be authorized to procure Pro-Construction & Renovation, LLC to complete a home rehabilitation project at 1321 Anderson Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payments from the CDBG Fund, Line-Item Other Operations, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000 for the Minor Housing Rehabilitation project at 1321 Anderson Rd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221.

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Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-104 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-105

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts with Bell Equipment for the purchase of a Leaf Vacuum Truck for use in the Street Division, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Chuck Novak, Street Commissioner, presented Temporary Ordinance B-105 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts with Bell Equipment as a part of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Purchasing Program for the purchase of an Olympian Leaf Vacuum mounted on a Peterbuilt 220 chassis for use in the Street Division. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Storm Drainage Utility Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay. Mr. Novak stated that they have nine main routes. This will be number six if Council allows them to purchase it, and it will replace a unit.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that these vehicles usually last 12 years and it is the sixth type of this unit and they are hoping to have nine. The leaf vacuum will be paid for using savings in other funds. It will be available October 23rd.

Mr. Tom Sullivan, 447 Tallmadge Road, asked the cost of the equipment. Mr. Novak stated that the cost of the equipment is \$254,070.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-105 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-106

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account Agreement with the Ohio EPA on behalf of the City for planning, designing, and constructing water facilities, designating a repayment source for the loan, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-106 to Council. The City seeks to improve its existing Water Treatment Plant by replacing the iron and manganese filter media and making any repairs necessary to the filter. The City seeks to improve its existing Water Treatment Plant by adding additional media to the existing softeners. The City intends to apply for a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account for necessary maintenance of the Water Treatment Plant.

The Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account requires a government authority to pass legislation for the application of a loan and the execution of an agreement, as well as designating a repayment source. This Council will support and authorize the Mayor to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account Agreement with the Ohio Environmental

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Protection Agency on behalf of the City for planning, designing, and constructing water facilities at the Water Treatment Plant. Council will respectfully request that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency give favorable consideration to the City's application for funding

Mr. Hoffman stated that this loan has a much lower interest rate than other financing. It historically has been about a percent to a percent and a quarter below market rates for municipal bonds.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked the cost of the filter media. Mr. Hoffman stated that they are estimating it somewhere around \$1 million.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-106 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-107

An ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's ARPA First Responder Retention Incentives Grant, making necessary appropriations therefore, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-107 to Council. House Bill 169 of the 134th General Assembly appropriated a total of \$75 million to provide grants to support communities that have experienced adverse impacts to First Responder personnel during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio EMA has awarded Retention Incentive funds to Ohio's First Responders, including the City, hoping that these funds will assist in retaining staff.

The Mayor will be authorized to accept the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's ARPA First Responder Wellness, Recruitment, Retention, and Resiliency Grant for fire and dispatch employees. Furthermore, the Mayor, Director of Finance, Director of Law, and other necessary City officials will be authorized to provide such other information to execute such other documents and do all other actions as are necessary for and incidental to carrying out the requirements of this ordinance and the terms of the Grant Agreement. The Director of Finance will be authorized to increase appropriations in the General Fund, Fire and Communication departments, Line Item Personal Services, by \$268,000, and \$34,184, respectively, and to make payment from the same.

Mr. Hoffman stated that several Fire Department staff and Dispatchers applied for and received grants totaling \$302,184, and this legislation allows the City to administer the funds to eligible employees. Each employee's share will be approximately \$4,000.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-107 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-111

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An ordinance authorizing the Director Of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts, with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc. For the professional services necessary to manage the City's risk management and insurance program and for the purchase of public entity insurance coverages, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-111 to Council. The Director of Finance will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc., for the professional services necessary to manage the City's risk management and insurance program, including purchase of comprehensive public entity insurance coverages, for a period of one year. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from funds properly appropriated to the various departments of the City for these purposes, according to an apportionment of costs as between the departments. Mr. Hoffman stated that the the renewal rate is flat compared to cost of last year's insurance.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-111 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.