

Finance Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
August 16, 2021
5:45pm

The Finance Committee met in Council Chambers August 16, 2021 with these members in attendance:

Doug Marmie – Chair
Ryan Bubb
Jeff Harris
(Spencer Barker sitting in for Jonathan Lang for first item)
Jonathan Lang
Jeremy Blake

We wish to report :

1. Consider **Resolution No 21-47** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 231 Probation Grant Fund, in the amount of \$372.55(ISP grant money that the Bureau of Workers Comp returned to us and PIIG Grant money that the Bureau of Workers Comp returned to us that we now have to return to ODRC)

231.113.5289	Workers Compensation	87.47
231.113.5289	Workers Compensation	258.08

Adult Probation Director, Kevin Saad – Periodically the State will ask us if we have received any compensation refunds and that's tied to our grant, I've let them know I've received some, so they want that back.

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Bubb, second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 5-0

Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 220 COVID 19-ARP Fund, in the amount of \$7,750,000.00 (Lead Service Line replacement throughout city, River Rd main replacement project, Add'l water storage capacity, Rood replacement for Par Excellence, Technology)

220.100.5521	Waterlines	2,500,000.00
220.100.5522	Sewerlines	3,000,000.00
220.100.5521	Waterlines	2,000,000.00
220.100.5271	Building Maintenance	150,000.00
220.100.5536	Computer Hardware	100,000.00

Water Administrator, Roger Loomis – I will speak about the first three items because they are water and wastewater issues coming out of the ARP dollars. These are 3 projects that we have that are currently unfunded by Capital Improvements. The first one the \$2.5 million, we want to appropriate for our Lead Service line replacement program that we need to move forward with. This is a new regulation. We need to remove all of our lead out of our system. We think we have a lot of it done, the problem is we have galvanized line and a lot of times that will have a lead gooseneck, so there is nothing wrong with the galvanized line except the older ones would have a lead goosenecks so they would flow properly. We think we have about 1200 of those in the city. The EPA has said any lines that could be replaced by 2024. It costs us about \$1,800 to do the service line replacement and if you do the math that puts us close to \$2 million and that doesn't include contingencies, so that's why we're asking for \$2.5 million. It's something we need to be in compliance with.

Mr. Harris – Is this just from the tap to the stop?

Mr. Loomis – We'll be required to do this from the tap to the meter. We have to have inventory done by I believe the end of next year. But we think we'll be done with the work before we get the inventory done. Our current inventory is decent. We have

building information and information out of our asset management system. We have a difference in those two and we don't want to have to do a lot of unnecessary work so we're trying to get that figured out.

Mr. Harris – So actually this is a benefit to our customer.

Mr. Loomis – Most of these lines are on the poorer sides of town and that's why they haven't been updates because they don't have the funds to do that. This is an excellent project to help people out and it helps us out as well.

Mr. Lang – What's the timeline for working through this?

Mr. Loomis – It has to be done by the end of 2024. We hope to have that done a lot sooner. What we plan to do is bid this out to 3 or 4 contractors and have them go around and identify them. It's hard to do in winter because you have to replace roads. You only have 7 or 8 months to do this work in that it can be done properly.

Mr. Lang – What's the notification process if you are coming onto my property to do work?

Mr. Loomis – What we've done with private property work before is we get a work agreement. That cost money too. Someone has to go out knock and knock on the door and get the property owner to sign off. Certainly if we're doing work on the street and we have to shut water off we notify people of it.

Mr. Blake – I'm curious about a few weeks ago I sat in a meeting and you have several projects that are on your list, can you talk about why this is more of a priority than any other items on your list. Why should this project have priority over some other storm water projects.

Mr. Loomis – We feel like this one is the highest simply because of getting the lead out of the system. We don't have high lead levels, our water treatment system helps that, but you want to get this stuff out of your system so you don't have those problems, so that's why because of the regulation and just because we think it's an important thing to get done.

The next project I have on here is a sewer line main that runs down River Road from the LIFT Station at Park Trails. What we want to do here is, we want to do a roundabout out there for the bridge, the sewer line is in the way, we need to move the sewer line and in the process of looking at this what we can do is make that force main into a gravity sewer. That eliminates a pump station for us and less maintenance headache for us and provides a better service to everyone because if the power goes out it doesn't matter because it's gravity flowed.

The final one is water storage capacity. We recently did a study of our water system and looking at where it could expand. One thing right now is as we have grown as a city, we do not have enough water storage. Water storage mostly relates to fire protection and if we have to shut things down for a certain amount of time we need about 24 hours of storage and we do not have that in our system. Horns Hill is where our primary storage is at, it's about 6 million gallons, we have another 150,000, gallons on the west end, we need an additional 1.5 million gallons which is basically another tank out here on Horns Hill, that's what this is. That can be done one of two ways we've looked at so far. That's' to either add to the top of one of the tanks so it will hold more or add a fifth tank up there. If you want to have growth in the city we have to have additional water storage to have proper fire protection and proper water supply. Typically tanks are \$1 per gallon and if we need 1.5 million gallons then that's \$1.5 with an additional amount for any contingencies.

Mr. Lang – The 1.5 million gallons you propose to add, does that get us to the 24 hour standard or does it give us some room for growth?

Mr. Loomis – This would put us just above where we need to be.

Mr. Marmie – Where do we fall as far as priorities on those areas of our city that don't currently have sewer, like Swansea, Kelly, Renae, they've been here for years and don't have sewer and I know the EPA is getting tougher and tougher with septic systems and I know some of those properties that those sit on are some of those properties that are not going to qualify under current standards for any kind of leech bed or septic system, so do those areas that have been that way fall into any of our future plans or priorities?

Mr. Loomis – That's always an interesting question because some people in those areas don't want sewers, so for instance, Gregory Park, we've had some requests for sewer lines up there and typically with most sewer systems extensions are done by assessments. So we had a program that went through Community Development with and called it Community Sewer Program and public works money was used for that, it's kind of hard to get ahold of public works money these days to do that. So, we'd like to continue those projects but you run into people wanting it, not wanting it, so as far as not being at the top of the priorities list we could discuss that.

Mr. Blake – With this being our first ARP Dollars, we're supposed to have a discussion about it, I just want to see how everything falls and what is the bigger plan for all these dollars.

Mr. Marmie – We'll be discussing that at the end of the agenda.

Mr. Blake – I just wondered if this item could wait until after that.

Mr. Marmie – No, it's the first thing on the agenda. The next one is the building maintenance for \$150k.

Director Rhodes – Councilman Harris and I have been in contact with Par Excellence and we received a request from them for help with a roof, they made a very compelling argument as to why we should help them, so the Mayor and I did some checking on it and feel it's a good appropriation to help them with roof replacement at Par Excellence for \$150k.

Mr. Marmie – The last one on this is the computer hardware.

Director Rhodes – We are continually buying laptops for working remotely and this will help us with that and to update laptops at City Hall. One thing I will point out is this is only \$7,750,000, there is \$9.2 million, there are additional dollars that are not being appropriated tonight.

Mr. Lang – With respect to the laptops, after we make this appropriation, we have enough laptops for anybody who would possibly need it? I know we did laptops around the first time.

Director Rhodes – Yes.

Mr. Blake – Can you speak more about the Par Excellence roof, have there been opportunities in the past to help such entities as this?

Director Rhodes – This is all within the parameters of what we're allowed to do with the dollars we've received. If your question is have we helped out of the General Fund the answer is No. But these are additional dollars we have received from the government, there are guidelines that you have to follow and this particular roof will fall under those guidelines. Mayor and I went over and spoke with Ken Alspach in accounting to make sure we are in good standing and he's pretty astute at these things.

Mr. Marmie – As far as the computer hardware, where do we stand on this are we setting up two offices for each employee, a home office and a work office, can we not reduce that to having a laptop that can go back and forth with a docking station.

Director Rhodes – Let me answer that the best I can. Like in my office, my computer is probably 11 years old, so I went to a laptop. A laptop that I carry home when I need to work from home and then I have upstairs currently. So that's the case, yes.

Mr. Marmie – So they are just using one.

Director Rhodes – I can't tell you that's the case for the entire city.

Mr. Marmie – Can we find that out because here's the thing. We should not have two separate systems for an individual employee. That's basically saying that they have two work locations and we're providing technical support at two locations.

Mayor Hall – We've got a little of both, I'll be honest with you, but those that don't generally work from home, say the Tax Office, they can't really take their work home because it's private information, they'll have one laptop and that will be their desktop and it's a little beyond a laptop because a need for dual screens and a docking station, not a lot but just a little bit. So, in their case they would just have a laptop, that would be the case in several departments of people who do not typically work from home or work from home rarely. Or more explicitly maybe they work at home or here not both. We do have people who are in more management positions or department heads that do a little of both and in that case they may have a local unit here and they also have a remote unit to take home. The other thing that is achieving is we still have some people on older Windows programs that we are trying to get that upgraded as well. Sometimes we're getting them screens to go with that, it depends on the situation. The auditor's office are a little better equipped at home because they can do a lot of work from home. We're kind of preparing for what we've experienced in the past and what may or may not happen in the future. Technology is a pretty broad term when we are using these kinds of dollars. We're also bringing in about 3 soft wares now across the city that will be less touch, less paper a lot of savings but you have to have all the right hardware to support that. It's a little blend. No, everyone doesn't have two laptops, most people do not. We did only have a couple laptops in the City, but luckily the CARES Act and ARP have provided some of these funds, had we been a city who had standard protocol for those it wouldn't because we would've had standard replacement plans for those, but in this case it's a little blend of both.

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Dr. – I'm just asking for some clarification. As I read this resolution it says appropriating money for current expenses, and then under Section 2 all of these appear to monies that are to be used under the ARP, has there been a pool of these items, it was my understanding the Council had to approve how the American Rescue dollars were being used. It would seem to me that the approval would need to come first, prior to allocating expenses for these items.

Mr. Marmie – That's what we're doing now Ma'am.

Ms. Mossholder – So if we approve this resolution then we are approving the expenses of the American Rescue Act.

Mr. Marmie – Yes for these dollars.

Ms. Mossholder – So, that's not a separate item.

Mr. Marmie – It's not a separate process, no. It's all in one. The money came to the city and basically is sitting there and the Council has to approve any appropriations of those dollars.

Ms. Mossholder – Why are they being expedited is another question.

Mr. Marmie – The expedited is because some of them have to be done rather quickly to meet timelines, you heard Mr. Loomis for example, they want to get started on this in order to make sure they can beat the winter on some of these items on other items as far as laptops and things like that, technology, they're hard to get, in order to get them in a timely manner we have to do them quickly and not only that a lot of the things as far as the American Rescue we have wanted to get them moving forward as quickly as possible, just because the money is available.

Ms. Mossholder – So the money has been here for a while, is that my understanding?

Mr. Marmie – No, I would not say it has been here for a while.

Ms. Mossholder – Okay, I just needed clarification why it was part of the current expenses, thank you.

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Bubb, second by Mr. Harris

Mr. Marmie – Also, in reference to what Mr. Blake said and why I kept this as the first item on the agenda, is we still have two

weeks until this proceeds to full council to do research, to talk to the administration, to do anything and if something needs to be amended or anything along those lines we can do that. The main thing is do they qualify so we can move them forward and then we need to do our research and we'll have our two weeks to do that research, plus we're going to hear from the administration at the end what their overall picture is.

Motion passed 5-0

Section 3. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 100 General Fund, in the amount of \$320,738.55 (To pay off Lease Payments)

100.111.5901335	OPT	320,738.55
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Service Director, David Rhodes – Weekly, daily and monthly we look at our needs for the City. As we look at that we look at our expenses and Capital Improvements. A large item has arisen as a need. It's a ladder truck for the Fire Department, it's approximately \$1.2 million, but when you put something like that on a spreadsheet over 7 years all of a sudden your payments are exceeding your income that come into Capital Improvements. So, the Mayor and I, the auditor's office and the fire chief, we wrestled with what is the best way to do a new ladder truck. What we came up with, was let's pay off some debt that we have in the Capital Improvement spreadsheet, so we've identified some dent that can be paid off and it come to about \$320k and later tonight in Capital Improvements, I'll be asking for the opportunity to a lease agreement to buy a ladder truck and various pieces of equipment that I need for the street department and the cemetery. We felt uncomfortable moving forward with this expense unless we were able to reduce some of the debt and that's the reason for the appropriation.

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Harris

Mr. Blake – What will be the remaining balance of the unappropriated balance.

Director Rhodes – That's not information that I have with me tonight.

Mr. Marmie – Can you just get that number to all the council members just so they have that? One additional comment I would like to make is what will also benefit in this situation is that this step will be paid off and the actual ladder truck because of the timeline it takes to put it together, we won't actually be making a payment on that until about a year down the road. The concept of doing a note in my personal finance and in business finance and especially tax payer finance, I don't believe in paying on a note that you are paying interest only on, on a depreciating asset. Any type of vehicle of any kind is a depreciating asset and that just doesn't make good financial sense to do something along those lines. That's why this is the best scenario and we can have a little more dent especially on the ladder truck because it's much needed and we're doing it in a way where we're still having lease payments.

Motion passed 5-0

2. Consider **Ordinance No. 21-22** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,900,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE FOR BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION SHARON VALLEY ROAD FIRE STATION NO. 5 INCLUDING SITE PREPARATION AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Deputy Auditor, Lori Resta – These Ordinances, 21-22 Cherry Valley is a note by itself, the 21-23 and 21-25, we've separated because they are different funds, but in 21-25 we've consolidated those for market placement and because they are due, we would like to have this expedited.

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Harris

Mr. Marmie – Are there any questions on any of these individually or collectively since she did talk about all of them?

Motion for 21-22 passed 5-0

3. Consider **Ordinance No. 21-23** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF TAMARACK 40TH STREET UPGRADE STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Harris, motion passed 5-0

4. Consider **Ordinance No. 21-24** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Harris, motion passed 5-0

5. Consider **Ordinance No. 21-25** AN ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATING TWO BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE ISSUES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Harris, motion passed 5-0

6. Consider **Resolution No. 21-52** A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE MATERIAL TERMS OF THE ONE OHIO SUBDIVISION SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO THE ONE OHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY AND USE OF RULE 11

Law Director, Doug Sassen – Essentially what this is, is a document that has been generated by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, a process, there are multiple municipalities and governmental entities involved in litigation with various pharmaceutical suppliers and manufacturers with regard to the opioid epidemic. They are moving in that litigation to a posture of settlement, they haven’t started those negotiations in terms of nuts and bolts but they are moving towards a posture of settlement. This document basically going out to various governmental entities that says if we engage in this settlement discussion will you be a part of it. It’s to give defendants in the case a reasonable majority potential plaintiffs, governmental entities will participate in that, so if they create a fund of dollars, it will satisfy a sufficient number of those governmental entities to make it palatable to everyone involved. This simply says we will be interested in participating in that so that when the settlement discussions begin we would like to be part of it. There are no discussion or nuts or bolts in place yet. If and when there is, that settlement has to be approved by 90% of the entities that approve this resolution before it can get enacted. So yes, if we get to settlement negotiations, then if we get to a settlement and then if we get to an agreement, 90% of them agreed to it, we want to be part of it. We’re using Rule 11 because this request was only sent out to us within the last 7-10 days from the attorney general’s office and they have to have it back by August 20th at the very latest.

Mr. Blake – Is this a similar process to the tobacco lawsuit.

Director Sassen – I don’t think this is, I honestly don’t. I know the litigation process was similar, but whether the legislation is similar, I can’t answer.

7. Discussion of American Rescue Act Funding

Mayor, Jeff Hall – I'll just tell you where we're at today and this is about a 2 ½ year deal, if we have monies committed for projects that are ongoing that can go 2 more years into 2026. What I'm going to discuss are factials and there's a whole lot of gray area that we're still working through. We're getting just about \$18.1 million. The early numbers were \$18.3, there was a miscalculation from the federal government on that so they re-did that, so it's a little over \$18.1 million. We got half of it now and the other half comes 12 months later. There are certain things in black and white that you can do with it. All of the water and wastewater things we discussed, certainly that helps keep our rates low, we've got very attractive rates here that help people in low and moderate income across the board. Water rates alone are 2 to 3 times what they are in Newark in some communities, so we're very proud to have those low rates. Broadband is something you can do. It's pretty accessible in this community as a city, so we don't see that as much of a plan that might be incorporated areas or southeast Ohio where they talk about lack of access. It's not about affordability so much as accessibility. We can see how that develops as we look at it. There's a whole lot of things going on out there about money and there's potential separate funding sources for comparable things that ARP can cover, so we're going to watch that very closely. I believe the President came out and wants to put a couple trillion in Broadband, it's a whole different avenue. But again, we're not really sure how it can apply into an incorporated city like this where we have access everywhere.

Mr. Marmie – The question for me is, not all Broadband is equal. Fiber optics is where we need to get to in a city like this, because if we want to grow into the future whether it be for businesses or for the luxury of property owners, fiber optics is where we have to get to and the quicker we get there and the faster we get there over communities, the better off we will be. So, Broadband might be accessible right now, but not the kind we want necessarily. We want to get to a higher level in order to ensure that our community is a community of choice. Everybody is fighting for businesses these days, not only that, we want to keep the businesses we have and also the residents and that's the future. Especially now that we have more and more people working at home, those types of things, it's going to be a necessity in the future.

Mayor Hall – I agree with that. It's going to take a learning curve, it's going to take a few, there will be a whole lot of on-line learning things presented on-line, virtual learning things, we'll dip into those on the Broadband side as we go, I think some of that from my standpoint is 5g Broadband, it's many antennae towers throughout the city, we have to think about the complexities of that and whether those poles or right of ways can be used for that, it starts with a lot of antennae in a lot of places, that's the way technology is today. I'm not saying no Broadband at all, I'm just saying what we know and where it's at, this first half money, what Roger is doing and through the water department, number one I'm extremely proud of, it's phenomenal, the plans he's delivered and how we do it, keeping this rate closed through good management and good planning, but those are long entailed projects, they take engineering, they take a lot of studies and that's something we kind of want to launch early in this while there is plenty of time. What we don't want to do is come to the end of 2024 and start sweating because something isn't done. Then whether you can extend or not, so those longer, more entailed projects we really want to throw out there quick and early. I think we'll go through things, we didn't have an amazing amount of revenue drop because property taxes went up throughout Licking County about 24%. That is something in other places across the country they had enormous revenue drops. We will use the calculation of about 4.1% a year that we can do each of these years through 2024 and that will be General Fund money so it can go right into that and take care of that. It's a process we're going to go through, we're not going to know today everything we're going to do with all the money.

Mr. Lang – I appreciate your thoughts on this. I think I would challenge the administration a little bit more to focus on that Broadband. I think when it comes to the work that Roger has done, it's easy to perceive dollars and that's well spent I think and needed. I think when it comes to Broadband, that's a little outside our wheelhouse, so I would challenge the administration to look for ways to invest in getting some

expertise around Broadband, whether it's a consultant or something to look at where we are and where we should be, to maybe think about investing some of these dollars towards Broadband in the future because I think Mr. Marmie is spot on with his comments.

Mayor Hall – Be happy to do that and there was no intention to shut anything out. Also, to be honest, I don't want to be the first out of the box in spending, unless it's in black and white like these water and wastewater projects. It says in print what you can use them for specifically and that is within that framework. Some of these things, let's see what some other cities do, let's get some ideas from them, not when their done, when they start talking. It's still very early in this process and we're going to set through this probably the next couple months and really there will be a whole lot more information coming out and virtual things to watch and learning lessons. An amazing amount of attorney firms and consulting firms are doing that, these firms are going to get direct benefit from these dollars too, so they're still working on it, it's only been 2 or 3 weeks that the final rules came out, so until that came out they really couldn't create all this stuff. We'll keep you updates, it's a two way street, you're out there tapping the people, that's the point of council really, so please feed us any ideas that way and nothing is closed off. Again, this is \$7.7 million, we've got \$1.3 or \$1.4 million left there, we've got another \$9.1 million in a year, so there is plenty of money to do many things and point well taken on the Broadband.

Mr. Marmie – So, have we heard anything as far as when we're going to hear information on those smaller things, what can we utilize it for. They've come out with some of the very big ticket items like you said, the sewer and water, so when can we anticipate hearing about some of the other items?

Mayor Hall – I'm going to be honest with you, I'm not anticipating a list of things you can and cannot do. I think it's probably better defines than the CARES Act money was because it's Phase II or whatever you want to call it, but with that, that money went through the State and came to us and we had the OBM in Columbus that was a good resource because they were in the middle of that money. They're not in the middle of this money. They are helping and they are making points, but I'll be honest with you, I'll be leery at times because they are trying to interpret the language and they are really not obligated, so you have to be very careful because no matter what anybody tells you at the end of the day we are responsible. They're not going to come bail us out of something. So, the CARES Act they never said we could buy a transport unit. We asked and they said other communities are doing it. That was the response we would get. So, that's the type of responses you're going to get I feel. No one is going to overly commit and that's why again, I feel a little safer not being the first one out to do some things like that, to kind of push those back just a little bit and do these things early that are transcribed in a 151 page document and then step back and it will kind of develop as it comes out. They have a FAQ list that is updated all the time and it keeps growing and growing and that's really where a lot of the details come out. The language itself has some broad interpretation, I think those FAQ's are going to be more detailed stuff.

Mr. Blake – I'm curious, we do know at some point there will be some infrastructure dollars coming, you alluded to that a little earlier. We know that when Mr. Loomis stands at that podium he also talks in million dollar quests so these dollars will be used up quickly. I guess I want to see, how will we look at the remaining dollars, in anticipation of even more dollars coming. What projects will be at the top of that list. I know Mr. Harris, Mr. Barker and I sat in with people talking about the Buckeye Avenue area, I know there is flooding that occurs in the south end. We talked about the levy being breached down there. I'm just curious about where would these other types of projects be considered as far as the bigger plan for all these.

Mayor Hall – What's addressed now with ARP money is water, wastewater and broadband. It doesn't get beyond that. It's not flooding issues, it's storm water and there is a fine line. There are 2 types of federal plans and I don't know them off the top of my head but if it falls under one of those two plans then it does qualify that way. Other dollars coming out and what Washington has some intention to do from the infrastructure side, that's yet to develop and like I said, I don't want to rush to fund something that could get funded with other money, we've got to look at that. There's a lot of infrastructure in the State budget. That's going to have to go through a process, it got passed before the end of this FY a couple months ago

and then it has to develop into how you apply for it etc. It's always a balancing act with infrastructure with us because there's always more needs than what we have and even with this money, there are still plenty more needs out there, but when I talk to Columbus, to The Governor's Office to the Attorney General's Office on this other money we keep pushing that we need money for safety and infrastructure and I think every community across the Ohio and beyond, that's where their deficit is. We have a phenomenal infrastructure system across the United States, but it's deteriorating and there are an enormous amount of bridges that need it. We have 89 bridges in this city that we have to pay for. That's something people don't realize, Newark has more bridges, I think we rank number 7 in the state for bridges, so we have a fair amount of money that has to go to bridges. We always know the next bridge that's going to have to be done. So we're always balancing license plate tax, excise tax for infrastructure and then this ARP dollars we can do it on the water side. There isn't a perfect plan yet and over the next few months we'll see how congress moves it just takes time for them to wash it out. I can't give you an exact answer, it's a balancing act on those big dollar things and I don't believe we need to rush in with the ARP money on something that could be satisfied with some other money. I'll be honest a lot of these programs are going around to a lot of these big cities across America, Cleveland got \$550 million ARP money and it will probably be real easy to spend that. With us not having a reduction in revenue, General Fund would be a great place to put it then you could do what you want with it, but we don't have that latitude. We also want to get feedback and know what people want. It's a lot of money, but it can go pretty quick too, you've got to think about that. My opinion is, we'd be stretched to put a new water tank in without ARP money, but that's something good for the whole community. On June 29th 2012 we had a derecho go through this town, thank goodness we had spent millions of dollars in previous years for back-up power at the water plant. Then again, that doesn't keep those levels up where you want it if you don't have power for 5 or 6 days. Anytime the pressure gets low, Roger always worries because you can get contamination, there are many parts to that. That is money well invested for the integrity of our system, anytime you have drinking water problems, it's terrible for a community. It's homeland security in a lot of ways, it's safety in your community number one. I always tell people, you turn your faucet on, water comes out, it seems simple, it isn't. It's a lot of hard work and a lot of people are doing great things to make that work and stay safe, so we want to keep that system going.

Mr. Blake – In the conversation you've had with OBM and other entities what have you seen patterns of that other cities are doing regarding safety forces and personnel for police and fire.

Mayor Hall – There is potentially some hiring of police officer, for example, but you must remember that after 2024 that funding is not there for this officer. So we're having discussions with the chief and command staff, and I'm always under worst case scenario and that doesn't mean we don't do things because of that, I'm just saying, if 2025 comes and we can't afford officers and have to lay them off, everybody has to understand that. That's not something we really do in this community. Could we hire eight, sure, but I guarantee you we aren't going to have the money in a couple years to pay for eight off that money. We can also look at SAFR Grants and ARP money as a blend, but you still have to be able to pay all of those costs. Those are things we're looking at. Chief Connor has given me a full report on the status of all our vehicles and thank you very much for the ladder truck. I've gone out to a few fires and when another city is using their truck more than our truck because there are problems, that's not right. It is time we step up and solve that the right way, it's incredibly expensive equipment, but ARP cannot do that, but it can work for transport units and potentially rescue units. Those are things we're looking at on the fire side, so I'm asking them to do full scale analysis of what they have in their department, what their needs will be, potentially that ARP could pay for, they have to talk with vendors and other communities and they are doing that. Then, give us a full scale report that we'll interpret and get with you as far as what we think we can do on the safety side.

Finance Meeting stands adjourned

Doug Marmie, Chair