

Finance Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
November 1, 2021
5:45pm

The Finance Committee met in Council Chambers November 1, 2021 with these members in attendance:

Doug Marmie – Chair
Spencer Barker – filling vacant seat
Jeff Harris
Jonathan Lang
Jeremy Blake

We wish to report :

1. **Resolution No 21-69** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 100 General Fund, in the amount of \$3,000.00 (Monies from homeless camp clean ups)

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|--------------|-------------------|----------|
| 100.432.5230 | Temporary Service | 3,000.00 |
|--------------|-------------------|----------|

Davie Rhodes, Service Director – This money came in from the Licking Parks District. We had a cooperative effort cleaning up a homeless camp on Park Property and we'd just like to have this re-appropriated to temporary services.

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

Mr. Marmie – You say this was a cooperative effort, so the \$3,000 is money we are getting reimbursed, correct? And were there any monies out of our funds?

Director Rhodes – Correct, and there were some but not to this level.

Mr. Marmie – Is it our obligation to do these, or is it under property maintenance?

Director Rhodes – This particular one was partly on County Land and part on Newark City land. It was behind the Babe Ruth ball parks and was a sizeable camp of about 20 different people so we decided to attack this one as a joint effort. Before we got started I asked the park District for some dollars to help with this.

Motion passed 5-0

2. **Resolution No 21-70 Expedite** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 153 Comp Abs Fund, in the amount of \$21,500 (Payout for retiring Law Director Secretary Marcia Shaffer)

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|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 153.106.5143 | Termination Sick | 5,500.00 |
| 153.106.5144 | Termination Vacation | 16,000.00 |

Tricia Moore, Law Director – She's retiring after 20 years.

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

Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 295 JAG Fund, in the amount of \$13,564.00(2021 BJA FY21 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Local Solicitation award to be split between the City and LCSO. Purchase of speed measuring equip. by the

city. The county will purchase radios chargers and assoc. equip.)

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------|
| 295.194.5312 | Law Enforcement Supplies | 6,782.00 |
| 295.154.5289 | Inter Gov't. | 6,782.00 |

Barbara Gilkes – This is the JAG Grant for the City.

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

Mr. Marmie – Is there any coop or anything that we will have to support this?

Ms. Gilkes – No

Motion passed 5-0

Section 3. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 220 COVID-19 ARP Fund, in the amount of \$370,000.00 (NPD handheld radios and reporting software)

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|--------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 220.100.5304 | Communication Equipment | 320,000.00 |
| 200.100.5536 | Computer Software/Hardware | 50,000.00 |

Mayor, Jeff Hall – This is the next step forward on our ARP money. There’s two items here that the police department has done a wonderful job of researching and does have a need for. The first thing is communication equipment, which are their hand held radios, that’s kind of their lifeline when they’re out on calls. We bought refurbished units in 2014, they came out of Houston, so, their lifespan has been exhausted. We’ve shipped them out for repairs of about \$10,000 now, we’ve replaced about 100 batteries, they’ve replaced some other accessories that were broken, but we’ve spent quite a bit of money, about \$26,000 in just two years just maintaining them. They also may not be compatible with some new radio authentication requirements that are coming about in 2024, also the new ones can work with wifi or blue tooth to increase their capacity to schools and buildings, which the old ones could not. It was a great deal for the time, but again they’re worn out and that’s the \$320,000 it would be 80 new portable units for the police department, expecting a 10-15 year lifespan and a reduction in maintenance for them. The second item is for computer hardware/software of \$50,000, it’s a one-time cost that their budget would absorb any maintenance for it. It’s a reporting software. We’ve had a lot of discussion on this. We truly do believe that at times the police department gets busy, someone calls in, they want to report a theft or report something that they don’t necessarily need an officer for, we have an option to send them a text or an email with a link where they could start the reporting process online, not mandatory, if they want an officer, they’ll always get an officer, but if they don’t want to wait the hour for a lower priority item they could do it that way. We’ve gotten some feedback from across the community that’s said, well I didn’t call because I know they’re busy. Well, we don’t want that, we want it reported. We want good stats so we know what’s going on and it will give us much more accurate figures to increase security across the city. They’ve done a lot of good research on this particular kind of software, it’s very user friendly and again, ARP money can buy both these items.

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

Mr. Lang – Two questions Mayor. One, if we approve this do you have a rough idea of where this leaves us on COVID money, and two, as far as handheld radios is there any compatibility issues you can think of for when we go to buy cameras and get the grant money for that.

Mayor Hall – I’m not aware of any compatibility issues on that side, I assume they’re compatible with each other, but I’ll surely ask about that, but Clint Eskins does a wonderful job preparing the reports and doing the research, but that’s a good question we’ll ask about that. As you know we’re getting \$18.1 million total, so we got \$9 million, we had \$7.5 million for water and sewer projects and after this we’ll have just a hair under \$200k left after this first allotment. I anticipate, because they said the second half

would come out 12 months after the first half, so that would be the end of May. Another thing I would say is that we have to get the radios one way or another and it's a great use for the money. I will send a spreadsheet out to everyone as an update on this.

Mr. Barker – I'd just like to make a comment on this, I'm happy to see we're doing the reporting software also, that's something that Chief McKee and I talked about a couple weeks ago and he was very adamant that he thought it would be an enhancement to our police force, so I'm glad to see the ARP funds can fund that.

Mayor Hall – I think ARP funds are really good for that because it's less exposure for citizens and will be great for the community. This is obviously done in large cities but not necessarily in small cities and we are somewhere in between there, so again, we'll send an officer out if they want one, but I think this will be wonderful for the citizens.

Motion passed 5-0

3. **Resolution No. 21-71** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NEWARK TO USE AN EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL DUTY POLICY IN LIEU OF INDIVIDUAL SURETY BONDS, PURSUANT TO ORC 3.061, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

David Rhodes, Service Director – When Mr. Johnson retired we began to look at coverage of individuals such as Mr. Johnson, the Treasurer, the employee dishonesty policy and we wanted to make sure that during that lapse we had some coverage on the next Auditor, which was Lori Resta. We found out we didn't unless we called. The insurance was more on a person and not a position, so we dug a little further into how our coverage worked and we found out for the Treasurer we had a \$50k limit and for the Auditor we only had a \$5k limit and for employee dishonesty we only had a \$15k limit. We thought those limits were low and maybe there was a better way to do it, so we contacted our insurance company and they led us toward this coverage. Those limits would be \$250k and those limits are on positions, not people, so, say the Treasurer came and left and came and left, it doesn't make a difference, it's on the position not people. Our old cost was around \$2,034.00, our new cost is just a little over \$3,000.00, but in the new cost too, it also covers the public employee pool, that means anybody on any board, all council members, anybody working in a capacity at the city. Let's say we had somebody working as a capacity for the city, driving a city car, this would extend to that, so these are all enhanced coverages. The only thing is with this new coverage is there is \$1,000 deductible which with the old one there wasn't, but we think the limits should be raised, we think the coverage should be expanded in today's world and with Mr. Johnson retiring that's kind of what brought this to our attention.

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

Mr. Lang – What is the bottom line as far as how it affects the premiums?

Director Rhodes - \$1,000.00 more.

Mr. Marmie – I just want to commend you actually on this. I guess I'm shocked that the other Boards and everything, especially anybody with a paid board, their personal liability would not protect that if there's any kind of income or gratuity. So, I'm happy to hear that the rest of the other boards and officials are also going to be covered. That wouldn't have been good in a liability situation because they could've fallen under the city as far as that liability. So, I appreciate you digging into that and upgrading it.

Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Marmie – Just one other thing to mention. The unappropriated balance is \$652.47, the rainy day fund balance is about \$904,000 and some change, just show you know where we're at financially.

Finance Committee meeting stands adjourned

Doug Marmie, Chair

