

Capital Improvements Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
October 18, 2018

The Capital Improvement Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday October 15, 2018 following the Finance Committee with these members present:

Jonathan Lang
Dee Hall
Jeff Rath
Mark Labutis
Sean Fennell

We wish to Report:

1. **Resolution No. 18-85** appropriating monies for the current expenses of the municipal corporation was considered.

Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 335 Capital Improvements Fund, in the amount of \$49,000.00 (4th Floor general renovations & other building improvements)

| Account | Description | Amount |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 335.121.5271 | Maintenance | \$49,000.00 |
| | Bldg/Grounds | \$34,000.00 |

Section 3. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 335 Capital Improvements Fund, in the amount of \$10,500.00 (NFD Back Up Vehicle)

| Account | Description | Amount |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 335.204.5532 | Vehicles | \$10,500.00 |

Section 4. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 335 Capital Improvements Fund, in the amount of \$4,500.00 (NFD Machinery & Equipment)

| Account | Description | Amount |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 335.204.5331 | Machinery & Equipment | \$4,500.00 |

Director Rhodes- I have put up a capital improvement request form that I would like to go through then maybe somebody can make a motion to substitute this one for what we have there. There have been some changes since Thursday. We have \$129,000.00 left in capital improvements for the calendar year of 2018. At the end of the year about this time of year we look for the best ways to spend the capital improvement dollars with the most benefit to the city. The first item we selected was for \$80,000.00 to go into the maintenance of streets. It stated spot work of paving, sidewalks, curbs and alleys. I would just like it to say paving sidewalks, curbs and alleys because those dollars could go into our paving program for the spring of next year.

The second item is \$34,000.00 for maintenance building and grounds. If any of you have been on the 4th floor and looked at the carpet, wall coverings, lights and ceiling tile what we are going to do is what we did over here, we went to LED lights which is a savings to the city, we are going to change out the wall tiles, we are going to paint the walls and put new flooring down similar to what we have on the foyer on the second floor. We originally had a quote of \$50,000.00 to do that by a contractor but we are going to do it in house and have a significant amount of savings. The only part that we will be out is we will have Weekly Electric do the lights. The dollar amount change is to be to \$34,000.00. The next item is vehicles for \$10,500.00, I have been working with Nick and Chief Connor. One of the things that Doug Marmie and I always talked about when I was on Council was when an EMS vehicle was going on a run and the backup vehicle was a fire engine at a gallon of gas per mile. They are going to buy a chase vehicle.

Assistant Chief Simmons- Chief Connor has assigned me to physical resources so I tend to specialize in everything that is physical things. In conversations with the Chief we thought that it would be a good idea to try a new response model where we put two people into basically an SUV. An EMS vehicle goes out to a call and they realize they need some extra hands so instead of taking what would be the most expensive piece of equipment vehicle wise in the city we are going to take a \$34,000.00 SUV with two people in it and go assist them. We think that will extend the life of the ladder truck significantly, we have already reduced it quite a bit by reducing the type of runs that it goes on. Now we are going to reduce it even further and try to get the maximum life span out of that vehicle. This is the way that we propose to do it.

Mr. Rath- thanks for coming up and explaining this to us. If you have a squad that is on a run and then if you have two people who follow the squad to assist and then you have a fire call who is driving the truck?

Asst. Chief Simmons- there is one person left to drive that vehicle. Unless there is one of or maybe two or three different natured calls like a cardiac arrest where they know they are going to need all three people from that vehicle the driver will stay with the vehicle.

Mr. Rath- that driver can drive that vehicle alone?

Simmons- correct. The two people that would be in the SUV would meet that driver wherever that fire is.

Mr. Rath- their fire equipment is in the vehicle with them or on the ladder truck?

Simmons- in the vehicle with them. We haven't worked out all of the particulars of what we are going to put into the SUV yet obviously we are going to have EMS supplies, basic fire gear, maybe their air packs, maybe a water extinguisher.

Mr. Rath- I assume that a firefighter that has his gear with him is his own gear and doesn't belong to anyone else?

Simmons- correct.

Mr. Rath- if I am that firefighter and I am at the fire station and I have the potential of going in an SUV chasing an ambulance or a ladder truck to a fire but no call has been made where is my gear?

Simmons- if it were me and some of my staff were asking me where do I put it I would say by the fire vehicle because if you need your fire gear you are going to leave here on a fire truck and you are going to need to have that gear on. If you put it by the SUV you are going on a medical call you don't need the fire gear you just need to take it with you.

Mr. Rath- and that is pretty easy to do?

Simmons- it is, we have it laid out in a way that it is easy to put it on or pick it up.

Steve Smith, 237 Violet Ct- asked about the different dollar amounts being discussed other than what is shown on the forms from the packets. He stated in regards to section one that is for sidewalks, curbs and alley he has brought to the city's attention that there are no sidewalks on Reddington Rd near Ramona Blvd and there is a school bus stop there. In the winter snow gets plowed up around the area where children wait for school buses and children have to walk in the street to get to their bus stop. I think that this is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Lang- I know that there a number of areas in the city where we would like to expand sidewalks and add to our sidewalks.

Director Rhodes- the bottom two sections that I am asking to be amended or the legislation to be amended came up after the 12:00 cut off on Thursday. The Chief and Nick and I were talking about this vehicle to follow EMS squads and we were looking around to see how much money we had or didn't have. It is about a \$35,000.00 vehicle and we are about \$10,500.00 short so we are taking that out of the original building maintenance and ground dollars. When I met with Barbara Gilkes this morning in regards to the FEMA grant that they got for a washer and dryer for station 2 I got my matching share of \$4,500.00 that was needed because of the reduced amount that we received from the FEMA grant.

Mr. Lang- we have two sections on the legislation and you would like to change section 1 or section 2?

Director Rhodes- yes that is the one.

Mr. Lang- are you proposing adding the Fire Department backup vehicle and station 2 FEMA matching share for the washer and dryer to section 2 or section 1?

Director Rhodes- section 2. You can replace the capital improvements form with this one and call it 18-85 B if you want but I wanted it to be in a clean form and pass it out to the committee. The bottom two items were identified after the 12:00 cut off.

Mr. Lang- understood, so we would rather attach that to the \$49,000.00 as opposed to section 1?

Director Rhodes- yes because that is the area that is actually changing.

Mr. Rath- I just wanted to say to the Assistant Chief great job thinking outside of the box and coming up with something creative in a way to save us money and wear and tear on equipment.

Mr. Fraizer- this is called a chaser vehicle so EMS is always going to be the primary responder we're not going to send a chase vehicle out by themselves to respond? What if we have all of our EMS vehicles out and the chase vehicle available?

Simmons- there is always going to be a grey area and that would be one example. The Chief and I talked about it and we talked to Deputy Chief Metzger and thought that we can't write out a policy that is going to cover every situation. In that instance we would rely on the station officers to make a decision. There is an assist off the floor which is a non-emergency public service that we provide. What do we take? Do we take two people in the SUV or do we all three get in the fire truck in case there is a fire and we are it. If it were me I would tell everybody to get in the ladder truck and we're going to go help this person. There will be a learning curve for that for sure but statistically 85% of what we do is medical so if you air on that side you are more likely to be right than not.

Mr. Rath- it would seem to me if you are going to take that chase vehicle you are going to have to equip that vehicle with a heck of a lot of equipment and most of that equipment is already on the ladder truck is it not? I am thinking that the squad is out and you have another medic run and now you are debating whether you send a ladder truck with three people or do I send a chase vehicle with two. I am thinking that there is a lot more medical equipment on the ladder truck to respond to a call as opposed to what would be in the chase vehicle and if you equip a chase vehicle like an ambulance it would be an added expense.

Simmons- we would not totally duplicate. What we might do is scale back on what is in the ladder truck, take all the advanced life care things and put that in the SUV and keep basic things on the ladder truck.

Mr. Rath- so when that call does come in that we are talking about hypothetically you have just made the decision significantly more difficult.

Simmons- the ladder truck won't be going by themselves they will be going to meet an EMS vehicle.

Chief Connor- I think that we are getting a little bit down to the weeds on this for this meeting. This vehicle is designed to reduce the wear and tear on the ladder truck. We are going to leave it up to our leadership to make the good calls and a significant percentage of the time the ladder truck is going to sit when it doesn't normally at this time. That is the common goal and I trust that my leadership will do the right thing; it is a work in progress. It is very difficult to hammer down anything specific because our work is so

dynamic in nature to begin with. We are going to be using that SUV as much as we can to reduce the wear and tear on that ladder truck. As far as getting into the weeds on what we are doing specifically on each call we could stand here for two hours and debate that however I am very confident that my leadership will make the appropriate calls at the time. We would like your support in order to let us make that call.

Mr. Lang- bottom line this sounds like it gives you a lot more flexibility on how you handle and respond to calls.

Chief Connor- well put.

Mr. Fraizer- when it comes to responding to an emergency is there any need outside of the fire emergency for somebody to jump on the EMS back to help with a cardiac patient or anything like that when they respond to these EMS things? Is there any time you need three people on the back of the ambulance?

Mr. Marmie- that is the whole reason for the chase vehicle that is the whole reason for the fire truck it is what we have been doing for years. The only thing that they are doing is changing a fire truck for a chase vehicle.

Mr. Fraizer- the question was on the transportation side, if you needed to transport.

Mr. Marmie- they're trying to debate about situations and all they are trying to do is replace a vehicle that is more efficient. The whole reason why they need the vehicle or the fire truck is because they need the extra body there. We are trying to reduce the cost of getting the extra body there during an emergency. Whether there is a fire or something else going on we still need the extra body at the one place.

Mr. Fraizer- I guess the real question is what are the scenarios that could cause issue with...

Mr. Marmie- they have those now and make those decisions every single day on those critical situations. Where is it more effective to send our people?

Mr. Fraizer- what I wanted to make sure that I had clarity on is when are we pulling people out of that vehicle and putting them on separate vehicles? What does that do in the residual to the fire transportation and what do we have to do for on scene management is what my concern was? If that's not applicable that's fine that is just what my questions were about where we have scenarios where we have issues with the SUV and people there.

Chief Connor- we will handle one call at a time and do the best we can with our decision making for further emergencies at that time.

Director Rhodes- I appreciate you guys considering that. I would like to thank the chair and the committee for allowing me to make a few changes that came in after the cut off time, we work very hard for that not to happen but do to the time constraint at the end of the year and things of that nature that is why I asked to have another form substituted.

Motion by Rath to send Section 2 on to full Council, second by Mr. Labutis

Motion by Mr. Rath to amend Section 2 by replacing the line item form that we have to the line item form that we just discussed with the same dollar amount but different line items adding Section 3 and 4, second by Mr. Labutis

Motion passed as amended by a vote of 5-0.

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 335 Capital Improvements Fund, in the amount of \$80,000.00 (Spot work of paving, sidewalks, curbs and alleys)

| Account | Description | Amount |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 335.302.5276 | Maintenance of Streets | \$80,000.00 |

Director Rhodes- if you could just strike the word spot work I like the paving, sidewalks, curbs because I don't just want that money dedicated to pot holes.

Motion by Mr. Rath to send to full Council, second by Mr. Labutis

Motion by Mr. Rath to amend to eliminate the words spot work, second by Mr. Labutis

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Lang- as far as the paving of sidewalks do we have a list of where we are going with this money? How are we addressing this?

Director Rhodes- we have some alleys that we have identified, we have some curbs we have identified and for paving we will go into our general paving.

Mr. Lang- do we have a list of those?

Director Rhodes- Mr. Morehead does.

Mr. Lang- can we get a copy of that?

Director Rhodes- yes

Mr. Marmie- just based upon the history and what the city does and does not do, typically the city is not responsible for sidewalks if there are safety concerns we have had grants and things with safe routes to school where we have gotten involved in those types of situations but the sidewalk is the property owners responsibility. There have been cases where we have had to widen a street or do improvements like on Mount Vernon Road we had to do some extensive work and tore up the sidewalks so it wasn't the property owners responsibility to put those back in but as far as new sidewalks and things it is not the city's it is the property owners responsibility to do that. We do have an ordinance that states if there is a curb there a sidewalk should be erected however some people are grandfathered in because we put the curb in afterwards. Any new development it is the property owner's responsibility to put in sidewalks. That is pretty customary unless it is a safety issue and we have gotten involved in a few but it isn't our primary responsibility.

Mr. Lang- Director Rhodes is any of this money for new sidewalks or is it maintenance of existing?

Director Rhodes- this is going into a multi-vendor PO and there is sometimes sidewalk work as Councilman Marmie explained that we have to get into. This allows the Engineer to be able to identify funds for work of that nature.

Mr. Lang- but not new sidewalks?

Director Rhodes- that is correct

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Johnathan Lang, Chair