

Finance Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
February 7, 2022
5:45pm

The Finance Committee met in Council Chambers February 7, 2022 with these members in attendance:

Doug Marmie – Chair
Spencer Barker
Cheri Hottinger
Jonathan Lang
Michael Houser

We wish to report :

1. **Resolution No. 22-09** 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 \$1,904.00 (Money received in 2021 from the Mental Health & Recovery for Licking & Knox Counties)

100.116.5319	Misc Supplies	1,904.00
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Vanessa Stalnaker, Adult Probation – I’m here representing Mr. Saad this evening. This is money we would like to appropriate that we received back in November from the Mental Health and Recovery Board. We need to buy some miscellaneous items.

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

Mr. Marmie – Tell Mr. Saad that now that he moved to my neighborhood, I expect him to show up here. I’m joking, tell him I’m glad he moved out and I did see him out jogging yesterday.

Motion passed 5-0

Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 100 General Fund, in the amount of \$9,000.00 (Req. Appropriation of funds received from Licking County ODMAP Demonstration Project used to enhance & promote real time overdose data and surveillance)

100.204.5331	Equipment & Supplies	9,000.00
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Tim Hickman, Safety Director – The Fire Department has entered into a project with the Health Department to do overdose tracking. They’re developing this overdose map that can provide real time information to all first responders. So, part of that agreement is the Health Department has agreed to give the Fire Department \$9,000 so they can acquire the necessary computers and software.

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

Mr. Lang – What’s the commitment from our end to participate in the program?

Mr. Hickman – They just need them to provide the information whenever they respond to overdoses so they can plug it into the system. There’s not a tracking device on the vehicle it’s just more of a reporting system.

Motion passed 5-0

2. **Resolution No. 22-12 Exp** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 220 COVID-19 ARP Fund, in the amount of \$6,612.00 (Radon Gas Testing for Basement)

220.100.5238	Services General	6,612.00
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3.

David Rhodes, Service Director – Your new neighbor, Mr. Saad, made a request to have a radon check in the basement. The administration feels it's a very reasonable request. For those of you who haven't been in the basement, the basement has a lot of nooks and crannies, so there are 21 different areas in the basement that need to be tested and this amount is just the amount for testing. If they find something, it's not for the remedy.

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

Mr. Marmie – Why is this so much higher than residential testing?

Mr. Rhodes – That's a fair question. 21 different areas that they are checking in the basement area.

Mr. Marmie – Square footage wise when you think about a radon test for a house in Licking County, is it different for commercial?

Mr. Rhodes – It's probably a little different for commercial. Down there you also have different jail cells, different offices spread out everywhere and it makes the testing a little more intricate. I had Carl check around and this was the company he was most comfortable with. I didn't check personally, I had Carl do it.

Mr. Marmie – I just think it's a lot in comparison, it's significantly more. A normal residential radon test is only hundreds of dollars at most and I'm kind of concerned because I know with the percentage in Licking County it's going to come back positive, so if this is just the testing, the remedy is going to be outrageous.

Mr. Rhodes – I guess I just figured we'd cross that bridge when it happens, I just thought since the request was made.

Mr. Marmie – I agree whole heartedly. The other bids can we see who they are?

Mr. Rhodes – He just felt most comfortable with this company.

Mr. Barker – You may not know this, but can you get the answer to this? If there is in fact radon at an unsafe level, does this company credit any of this amount towards remediation? Because I agree with Mr. Marmie, because in my background in real estate, that's a number I have never seen for a radon test. I mean you can buy a \$40 kit, I know this is a much larger building, but in normal commercial structures I've never ran a radon test.

Mr. Marmie – I am 110% that we need to check it, but I also know they just come in with equipment and check the level, so I guess why is it so much higher than a residential and I know Licking County is the worst as far as radon, can we just check around first.

Ms. Hottinger – I just want to make a comment, although I know nothing about radon testing, but residential versus commercial, as you know appraisals are about 4 times as much, because they have different qualifications and different reports that have to be filed for commercial versus residential, that could be part of the reason, I don't know, haven't seen it, but there might be some reason behind it.

Mr. Rhodes – Those are fair questions and I will get the answers back to you.

Mr. Lang – If we had the other quotes, it may help.

Mr. Marmie – We still need to be moving this forward, this is very important, we just want our questions answered.

Motion passed 5-0

Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 230 OCJS Fund, in the amount of \$96,058.40 (Grant Dollars received from the State of Ohio Criminal Justice System for body worn cameras for the police dept)

230.230.5312	Law Enforcement Supplies	96,058.40
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Barbara Gilkes – This is for a body worn camera grant for the Police Department.

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

Mr. Lang – Timing wise when do we expect to be able to purchase the cameras?

Ms. Gilkes – Right now we are waiting on the Grant Award Packet. We're guaranteed we are getting the money. The Police Department is getting with the vendor to check on, because when we submitted this grant, they got the estimate in July, so prices could have changes since then. So, as soon as we get the grant package and we follow up with whatever stipulations they put in it, then the Police Department can order the cameras. They

have to follow the protocols that are outlined by the Ohio Department of Public Safety and so that's why we want the appropriation now, so that when they are ready to purchase everything is in place.

Mr. Lang – If the prices have changed will the grant amount change at all?

Ms. Gilkes – The grant amount will not change. If the price goes up they will probably get less cameras. The Governor split the funding for this program into two fiscal years, so we will have another opportunity to apply for more money next year. If they follow the same time line we will be back for another installment next year. We'll ask for the rest of the amount of money we need. When we ask, we don't necessarily get what we ask for although we did get a significant portion of our request.

Mayor Hall – I can add to that. This is less money than what we requested, as Barbara mentioned. They thought around \$140-\$150 thousand, so really, we may be coming and asking for a little bit of money from you guys, I'm going to meet with the Chief this week. Tim and I and the Command staff are going to talk about this, I think it's important and I know all of you do too. At the end of the day we'll bring back a plan and maybe know a little more about this timing. I will add also, we're waiting on radios that are a little bit back ordered because of something with the battery or something. We're going to try to progress as fast as we can, but sometimes if a little part is missing, we'll keep you updated. We'll come back and give you that full scope of what it is. To me it warrants us putting a little money in with this to get what they need instead of cutting back the program.

Ms. Gilkes – It comes down to if you want to do two different times or if you want to add money so they can do the bulk thing at one time. One avenue you can use is the American Rescue Act Plan funds. It's going to be up to you if you want to go with one year or two years.

Mr. Marmie – Let me ask, do we know, say if we need additional money to fully equip our entire force, if we go ahead and purchase it can we still apply for the grant next year to pay for what we already purchased?

Ms. Gilkes – No. grants don't work that way. That's illegal.

Mr. Marmie – I was just double checking because this is unique, the way they are doing this. I guess I'm just going to give my opinion. My opinion is we move forward and fully supply our safety forces 100 percent, after this evening with everything we do, we still should have a little over \$240,000 in the ARP money and our second batch should be coming in March or April or May. I think it's that important personally, I'm not going to speak for everybody, but that would be the direction I think that our citizens and safety forces in particular, I think it's that important and I think that folks really do think it is. I know it's your decision, but just if you want an opinion.

Motion passed 5-0

Section 3. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 929 JEDZ1 Fund, in the amount of \$15,000.00 (An unexpected refund request from a business within the JEDZ1 after the budget was approved)

929.132.5623	Tax Returns	15,000.00
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Brad Feightner Jr., City Treasurer – We have received a request from a business in the JEDZ1, a refund request in the amount of \$15,000, which was unexpected. We typically budget around \$10,000 and we're well below that so, because of this request we need the \$15,000 appropriated to the JEDZ1.

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

Mr. Marmie – The last thing I'll make sure that I communicate to everyone, as I mentioned, the ARPA funds, there's about \$240, 838.00 remaining in that and we'll get the second batch coming up in May. As far as our unappropriated balance we are at \$540, 418.00 and our budget stabilization fund is \$1.379 million.

Finance Committee meeting stands adjourned

Doug Marmie, Chair

