

Finance Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
March 21, 2023
5:45pm

The Finance Committee met in Council Chambers March 20, 2023 following Personnel Committee with these members in attendance:

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

We wish to report :

Mr. Marmie - First item, the unappropriated balance of the General Fund is \$2,422,745.00 and the cash balance of the Budget Stabilization Fund is \$1,259,830.00

1. **Resolution No. 23-27** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE 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 \$57,468.16 (Funding of recently created Criminalist position in the Division of Police)

100.203.5111	Salaries & Wages	36,523.20
100.203.5122	PERS	5,113.25
100.203.5122.100	PERS Pickup	1,826.16
100.203.5124	Health Insurance	12,907.51
100.203.5126	Medicare	529.59
100.203.5127	Workers Compensation	568.45

Tim Hickman, Safety Director - Back in January of this year Council passed Ordinance 22-56 which created the position of Criminalist in the Police Division. We're here tonight to ask for the funding so we can fill that position. What does a Criminalist do? It does a variety of important jobs for the Police Department, crime scene processing, fingerprint analysis, drug analysis, the list goes on and on. All of those are vital but don't have to necessarily be done by a sworn Police Officer. Right now we have a sworn Police Officer who is doing the roll of Criminalist, he's notified us he is going to be retiring in the near future, so our plan is with Council approval to hire a civilian into that position. It's probably going to take about a year and a half to get that person fully trained and up to speed, have them ready to go for when this officer retires and that uniform, that badge is going to go back out on the street. So, that's kind of the long range edition of this.

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

Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 100 General Fund, in the amount of \$219,336.70 (Four unfilled officer positions were erroneously converted to unfunded positions in the 2023 budget. Amounts requested are for April thru December 2023 for those four positions)

100.202.5111	Salaries and Wages	131,598.95
100.202.5121	Police & Fire Pension	16,120.80
100.202.5124	Health Insurance	66,381.12
100.202.5124.110	Non-AFSCME Dental	1,041.84
100.202.5124.400	Life Insurance	237.60
100.202.5126	Medicare	1,908.18
100.202.5127	Workers Comp	2,048.21

Director Hickman - Along the lines of putting more officers out on the street, that's what this request for appropriation is about. When this years budget was finalized there were four positions within the Police Division that didn't get funded. We have those bodies, we have those people who want to come here and want to work, we just need the funding to get them through the end of this year. Three of those officers will be going to the Police Academy in Columbus which starts in May, so there is a little bit of urgency to get them on board, the other one will be a lateral transfer.

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

Mr. Barker - The ones going to the Academy are going to start in May, correct?

Director Hickman - That's when the Academy starts, but we need to bring them on board early so we can get them through orientation and get them the necessary gear.

Mr. Barker - We don't need to expedite this to make that deadline?

Mr. Marmie - No, Finance issues don't wait 30 days.

Motion passed 5-0

2. **Resolution No. 23-29 Exp** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE 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 \$395,000.00 (47-49 W Main St approx. \$360,000 and Corner of E Main and Cedar approx.. \$35,000 and all costs involved with the purchase of the two properties)

220.103.5501	Land Purchase	395,000.00
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David Rhodes, Service Director - The City's got an opportunity to bring two pieces of property into our portfolio. The first one is on the corner of Cedar and West main. It's not the whole piece, it's just to cut off a piece so we can add a turn lane there sometime in the future. This is next to Blessed Sacrament, we're working with the church to get that in, it's approximately \$35,000, the engineer when out there and staked that out, when corners are available we try to buy what we can for future widening and this is just that case.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Houser

Mr. Barker - I just wanted to make sure because all we've heard is the \$35,000 one, we're not voting separately?

Mr. Marmie - They are together.

Director Rhodes - The second piece of property is catty corner here from City Hall. It has been known as the First Federal Parking Lot where people can rent spaces. That lot became for sale, there's approximately 53 spaces in there, there is also a storage building behind it that comes with this. Why we want to buy it is we do have employees that are parking on the gravel lot, what I would call the old Newark Advocate site. That lot is in contract and we're hoping construction will begin there sometime in late summer/early fall, I know you've been involved in a number of those conversations, so we've got a place to park the remainder of our employees and of course can be public parking at night.

Mr. Houser - The building that's on site do you have any plans for?

Director Rhodes - No, we're going to go in and look at it once we own it, as they do the Arcade, Robertson might use it a little bit, we've had preliminary discussions just for storage of parts.

Mr. Houser - I've had a lot of residents reach out and say they wish we had another turn lane right there on Cedar, so I appreciate that you have the foresight to look at that.

Motion passed 5-0

Section 2. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 621 Water Dept. Fund, in the amount of \$140,000.00 (Amendment to Riverbank Filtration Project for Capacity Study)

621.706.5231	Professional Services	140,000.00
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Roger Loomis, Water Administrator - We're wanting to amend the contract for the Riverbank Filtration Project that we have for a couple of reasons. One, so that we have the capacity, there's possibly a company coming to town here also as we look at that process up there and our watershed is up in that direction and there's people possibly taking water, so we want to have good documentation of how much water we have, so if there is ever an issue of us losing capacity we kind of know where that is established. That's what this project is about what capacity we can have come in and what we can put out.

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

- Resolution No. 23-30** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

Lindsey Brighton, Storm Water Coordinator - Sourcewell provides a cooperative purchasing service to government entities and non-profits, so if we were to participate in this it makes the procurement process easier, they have already negotiated the lower prices for things such as a salt barn, which is what started this whole process. So, we need to get the salt piles covered at the Street Department as part of the Stormwater EPA requirements for the State. So, I was looking at salt barn prices and in order to not have to bid it out we can go through this Sourcewell service and go with the first quote that we got for the salt barn down there. So that's what Sourcewell is. A lot of City Governments are going to it. Lancaster has recently had legislation to do it there. It's free to us, the vendors and suppliers that participate pay a fee to Sourcewell. So that's how that works. If you have any questions I can try to answer, I'm not an authority on Sourcewell, but it might open up a lot of other things for the City in addition to the salt barn.

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

Ms. Hottinger - Just so I'm clear, so they then go out and bid out?

Ms. Brighton - Yes. They already have vendors that got to them with prices and they negotiate the lower prices.

Mr. Lang - Have we received terms or any conditions from them in the agreement?

Director Moore - I haven't seen anything.

Ms. Brighton - No, I was working with Caroline on this.

Mr. Lang - If we got something like that it would just be helpful to understand what we're doing.

Ms. Brighton - Okay, I can try to get that.

Motion passed 5-0

4. Meeting stands adjourned

Doug Marmie, Chair