

## Finance Committee Minutes

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

The Finance Committee met in Council Chambers November 20, 2023 with these members in attendance:

Doug Marmie – Chair  
Spencer Barker  
Bradley Chute  
Jonathan Lang  
Michael Houser

### We wish to report :

**Mr. Marmie** - The unappropriated balance of the General Fund is \$376,139.00 and the balance of the Budget Stabilization Fund is \$1,416,630.00

#### 1. **Resolution No. 23-95** 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 \$2,104.05 (Request funds be appropriated back into the overtime account from special duty coverage for Newark high School football game)

100.205.5118	Fire Uniformed - Overtime	2,104.05
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**Mr. Marmie** - This resolution has been pulled.

#### 2. **Ordinance No. 23-55** AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO DURING THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 2024 (General Fund)

**Ryan Bubb, City Auditor** - Thank you Mr. Chair and members of Council, in front of you is , in my opinion, a very good balanced budget. I want to thank all of the Department heads and Chiefs and special thanks to my office Jim Weisent and Jackie Williams. It's here, it's November and you've got two readings, it's not last minute, it's not the week before and we have to call a special meeting, give everybody time to look at it and we're really happy where it's at. Furthermore, my office worked with Safety Director Hickman and the Chiefs to get any new hires and when they will occur start date wise, we were able to stagger some of the salaries because they're not going to be on the budget for the whole year. So, I appreciate everyone's support and cooperation. I'm just going to give some highlights of the budget. My years on Council, usually what's important and what you folks want to know. We'll start with paving, it's a total of \$1.82 million, there is \$1 million in Capital Improvements, \$100,000 of that is for alley paving, that's what we did last year, out of Mr. Morehead's gas tax you have \$829,100, I think something also very important in the Service Department, we talked about with the Mayor and Service Director multiple times, I'm really

glad to see I think it's very important, there is \$175,000 in the unappropriated Capital Improvements, it's very important in my years in business vesting funding for depreciation and that's what we're doing, things go wrong. I think you'll see that, you know we've had to replace another boiler at the Police Department, you know things break, things happen, there is all kinds of real estate and buildings across the City, so I think that is real important. Also in Service Department another item to highlight, we only have to give a bail out to the Street Department of \$200,000 from the gas tax. Gas tax sales are up, our previous year was \$400,000. So, that's kind of an over view of the Service Department. There also is a line item in Capital Improvements, there is going to need to be an antennae repair. I know that the Service Director and Law Director's Office are working with a few different entities in cooperation, as they are also going to help fund this improvement when indeed it does have to happen. Moving on to the Division of Police, they are planning on hiring 6 new officers which are in the budget, slated for May and again this budget was adjusted accordingly to that start in May. Two new detective vehicles, \$50,000 for car improvements along with a new boiler system and gate. There also will be \$80,000, which it's a total of \$400,000, but it's going to be amortized over 5 years for new tasers, so Mr. Rhodes was nice enough, Chief, if you need a guinea pig. So, that's kind of an over view of the Police Department. Fire Department, they are planning on 6 new folks, 3 new firefighters in April, 3 in August. There is \$150,000 for maintenance of vehicles., a little short of \$270,000 for replacing what needs updated. So, there is an overview of the budget, Director's Department Heads, Chiefs are here if you have further questions or concerns, they are here to answer your questions. So, again I would appreciate your support, also important to note, that this leave the unappropriated balance, so when we go into the beginning of the year, it's going to leave about \$112,000, so again that is way different from last year because we had bargaining units that had not agreed, so we had to overfund that. So, the budgets for each department they've got money to spend, funds overtimes, funds salaries, so hopefully, you won't see many requests coming to you for unappropriated balance of the General Fund. An additional \$100,000 a month will go to the Budget Stabilization, it's purposely down a little from last year because of the Mayor's foresight a few years ago, we've really pumped that budget up, so it's about \$1.5 million, so there's not the need, so to do that we kind of put more into Service and Manpower for this upcoming year. So, with that being said, I appreciate your support, I think it's a real solvent budget.

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

**Mr. Lang** - I just want to thank you for all the communication on this, I think it's been great, I appreciate you guys getting everything together for us and giving us plenty of time to review it, really well organized and questions I've asked of your team have been answered quickly and thoroughly, so I really appreciate the work you guys have done.

**Mr. Rath** - I heard you talking about staffing numbers for the Fire Department, when it comes to numbers I usually zone out, but can you say anything about staffing numbers.

**Mr. Bubb**- Yes, six new officers slated for May, Fire Department they are hopeful late April. I believe, Chief, you have four ready to go now.

**Chief Metzger** - Correct.

**Mr. Marmie** - I also want to thank both Ryan and Jim for everything that the team did, as far as discussions, it's been great, Jackie also, she's got back with me with a lot of answers. We are going to have a couple small little adjustments, but I'm going to wait until it comes to final because if we have another couple small ones, to amend it here, it's just a couple of them that are just cleaning up, nothing major, I think it was just a couple of line items that were identified, so we are going to clean those up, but I appreciate all the work, Jim getting back with me, Ryan getting back with me and Jackie, they were on top of every single question that I had and I really appreciate it, my emails just went ballistic, but they reached out to each department, departments responded to them and they got back with me, so, it was a great team effort and I appreciate what you've brought forward.

**Mr. Bubb** - Thank you and that's why we tried to get this out early because there will always

be something.

**Mr. Marmie** - I learned something, we've never had it this year and we've always had payouts for sick leave and things like that and I kept thinking there's a mistake, we've got to be paying more out for sick leave, but it's not December yet so we haven't paid it out yet in a lot of our departments, but we've never had the budget this early, so it's been great. So, I did learn that and I appreciate I had my big red flag going off there and it was for no reason, Jackie knew right away.

**Motion passed 5-0**

3. **Ordinance No. 23-56** AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO DURING THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 2024 (All Others Fund)

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

**Mr. Bubb** - If I could just state one thing. For many years Roger Loomis did a wonderful job, so I can't say enough great things about Brandon Fox, for his first year as big of an enterprise as this is, and I'm never into the thank you's, but I'm, here to tell you folks he's filled in.

**Mr. Marmie** - Honestly, I'm going to say kudos, City of Newark water rates are phenomenal, and it just continues on like Auditor Bubb said, Roger Loomis began it, I remember he and I going back and forth with the Storm water utility rates and water rates and you know we don't charge a penny extra until we need that penny extra. We don't anticipate future expenses and jack it up a certain amount. They do a great job and they keep that extra dime in constituents pockets until it's needed and we do appreciate that, we are very blessed to have the water rates that we have here in Newark, the quality of water we have here in Newark, all of these departments in the all others it's really good and it's nice that they are self sufficient. They also pay their share towards the General Fund as far as the different expenses, but the General Fund as far as Payroll and HR expenses etc. it does help in that capacity also. So, greatly appreciated. So, for those of you not aware the reason this has to stay out of the General Fund, they are governed and so cannot spend any water and sewer money in the General Fund other than for their own purposes or as far as what their share is. So, it is good that they are self sufficient and we have not had to bail them out, ever in the 20 plus years I've been here, so greatly appreciated.

**Motion passed 5-0**

4. **Ordinance No. 23-57** AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO DURING THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 2024 (Grants Fund)

**Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, Second by Mr. Barker**

**Mr. Bubb** - Barbara has done a good job keeping those grants.

**Mr. Marmie** - I'll comment again. They are governed by the grants, the grants dictate what they can and can't do, we've never had any issues of naught letters saying you didn't do something right, we've had to pay money back before, it's just unused money though and that's not a bad thing, it's just we didn't use it all, but of all our grants, the department that use them, they follow the letter of the law and it really is good that we have them and the service that they provide, it's not free money it's still our tax dollars just coming from a different revenue and they are stewards of our money and if they don't spend it it's not because they wouldn't want to it's just because the need wasn't there. So, do appreciate all they do.

**Mr. Bubb** - There's new people here, so I just have one more item, If you read the endo the month reports, I'm sure all of you read them page by page, in December we have to transfer over, but we get paid back right after the first of the year, it's just something when new auditors come n they wanted to see, so you see that transfer so it's just literally for 10 days and then it comes back.

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Mr. Marmie** - The next item on the agenda, it's just coming back from the Table, just to bring it back and be legal, we tabled **23-94**, I believe the Mayor we had support, but we are going a different route so we do not need to look at that one, so that will die here in committee.

**Mr. Marmie** - I've left it open for general comments and I will start off. The City is headed in the right direction, I think we've seen a lot of progress in the past, the reason we need to look in the rear view mirror is to know where we've been in order to know where we need to get to, we need to keep looking out that front windshield and are focused on what is right in front of us and what's in the future. Our Safety Forces are our number one priority and making sure our citizens, our citizens are screaming that we need additional policing in order to make sure that the laws that are currently being broken can be enforced and that we have enough manpower to take care of the activity that is going on and cleaning up a lot of the negative activity that is happening in our City. So, in my opinion, that needs to be the major focus, I think the budget demonstrates that we are focusing in that direction. To say that we are done, it's not a done deal, we need to continue on in that direction. There's a lot of other things we need to make sure to stay focused, one of which I just alluded to, the resolution for support of anything that's happening with growth within our City. We might see a spike in our tax revenue as far as our budget, but guess what, there's going to be a higher demand of the services that we need to provide, there's going to be higher expenses associated with that, costs are going to increase because of it. So, we need to be prepared for that. We need to make sure that we stay focused on those and that we don't just, it's going to come so fast and furious we're going to need to keep our eye on this every quarter at least if not every month to make sure we know the trends that are happening so we can keep ahead of it because if we get behind it could be a downward spiral and we don't want that to happen. So, I think it's going to be a team effort from everyone and I think it's something that we definitely have the appropriate people in place. I think everybody has the right heart to go in that direction and I think great things are going to happen in the City of Newark. I can't wait to see them. Although, I can wait to get older, so I'll be patient about that.

Meeting stands adjourned

Doug Marmie, Chair