

Audit/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2020

8 AM City Commission Chambers

Committee Attendees: Nickles, Stahl, Gardner, Allen, Tomasula, Murray, Brady, Wobser and Reeder.

Nickles began the meeting asking for approval of the November 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Murray motioned for approval, and Tomasula seconded the motion. All Ayes, minutes were approved.

Nickles spoke about the investment policy and asked if anyone had any comments. Reeder explained that the changes to the investment policy were to ensure the policy is compliant with Ohio Revised Code. Allen commented that municipalities are limited in their permitted investment activities and we are governed by the ORC guidelines. Nickles and Brady discussed that the Commission would like to recommendation of approval of this policy. Allen made a motion for approval, Stahl seconded. All Ayes, motion was approved.

Stahl made mention of the watercraft dock tax and he appreciated the tax being applied to the utility bill. Nickles thanked Wobser and Brady for the upbeat State of the City presentation. He said is uplifting and motivating.

Reeder explained the 2021 proposed budget has an estimated \$17.8M in general fund revenue and \$19.9M in expenditures. This means we would have a deficit spending estimate of \$2.1 million dollars in 2021. The general fund cash balance at year end 2020, is expected to be between \$4.6 and \$4.7 million dollars. This would project a cash balance of \$2.5 million dollars at year end 2021 with the proposed budget. This cash balance is 14% of the expected 2021 revenue. Nickles asked about the payroll stabilization fund and the projected balance. Reeder stated the payroll stabilization balance at the end of 2020, is expected to be around \$145,000. We do have additional retirements in 2021 and we are budgeting to fund \$210,000 into the payroll stabilization fund in 2021. Reeder stated the 2021 budget includes contractual wage increases for Union employees, the Commission pay increase per voted approved Charter changes, Administration employees pay was also reinstated to pre-COVID amounts, with the option to furlough hours. Nickles asked if we have filled the Community Development position previously held by Matt Lasko. Wobser explained we have hired Jonathon Holody who starts in January. Reeder stated that once Jonathon is onboard, we will have 223 full time employees, this is a decrease of 30 employees since January 2020. Wobser explained that we expect 2021 to still be a lean year, and he hopes as we begin to approach 2022 we can start to bring staffing and infrastructure levels back. Nickles stated this looks to be a bare bones budget.

Wobser stated we have no additional stimulus dollars factored into this 2021 budget, so any stimulus dollars we receive will help reduce the projected \$2.1m deficit spending. Stahl commented that the Administration has done a great job of managing the budget and he is hopeful that the vaccine is successful. Brady commented that the team has done a great job and we are still budgeting conservatively in 2021. He stated we are not through the pandemic yet, but we will make it through the end of the year. Nickles stated he appreciated the teamwork that we had this year. Wobser stated we have had a great team and had to make a lot of difficult decisions this year.

Reeder noted that the 2021 budget includes the Issue 8 commitments of \$180,000 for housing, \$750,000 for infrastructure, \$125,000 for development, \$60,000 for programming and \$10,000 for public art. Wobser stated these meet the pledge commitments that we made at the time Issue 8 was passed. Murray stated he would like to see the cash balance projections for 2021. Nickles asked if anyone had any additional comments or questions on the 2021 budget. With no additional questions, Nickles adjourned the meeting at 8:29am.