

CIRCLEVILLE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES 5.28.2024

Circleville City Finance Committee convened in City Council Chambers, 127 South Court St, Circleville, OH. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Roll call: Present: Chair Katie Logan Hedges, Committee members Jeff Hallinin and Tom Duvall, and Clerk Melissa Burns. Invited Guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, Auditor Mark Bidwell, and Acting Deputy Police Chief Jon Farrelly.

Call Meeting to Order and Roll call.

Duvall motioned to approve the minutes from May 13, 2024. Hallinin seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

a) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN EVERTS DRD FUND 226 SAFETY FORCES .5% TAX FUND 227 ADDICTION TREATMENT GRANT FUND 267 AND SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT & EXTENSION FUND 920 OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE

Discussion: Hedges states the large line share item is for a pass-through payment from OWDA in the amount of \$1,770,776.10. There are other smaller items and one other larger item the Committee wants to bring attention to for the outfitting of police vehicles in the amount of \$89,938.25.

Bidwell states the first item on the Ordinance is Everts DRD Fund 226 and is for collection fees that did not come through last year. The fees have now come in and need to be appropriated in the amount of \$15,325. This also includes additional collection fees from the County Auditor. Fund 267 is increasing by \$10,977 for recovery support and treatment services for the Municipal Court. Bidwell confirms the OWDA funds are for the investigation and remediation and will just be passing through to another Company. Bidwell states the \$89,938.25 is for the unpaid cost of purchasing and outfitting six police vehicles. There were supposed to be two drops of \$177k each to fund the purchase and outfitting of those six vehicles.

The Mayor stated the City used B & C to outfit three vehicles. The vehicles were determined to be outfitted incorrectly by no fault of B & C. Two of those vehicles were sent to PARR to be re-outfitted correctly. Essentially the aesthetic of the inner workings of the vehicles did not match other vehicles and it created a safety issue. The third vehicle has not been reoutfitted but is only driven by the supervisors. PARR outfitted the other three vehicles so there was no issue with those vehicles. The re-outfitting cost for each vehicle is \$23,000 with PARR. The Mayor stated the work was completed in 2022 and 2023.

Hedges asked why the bill is just now being presented. The Mayor is not sure why the bill was not brought forth before now. Hedges asked who approved the first outfitted vehicles? The Mayor stated it is her understanding that the former captain was responsible for the approval of the outfitting by B & C. Hedges asked what happened to all the equipment that was installed on the first outfitting. The Mayor stated she assumes the company kept the equipment because it could no longer be used once it was replaced.

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Hallinin asked if there were any details about what was wrong with the first outfitting.

Acting Deputy Chief Farrelly states the first outfitted vehicles caused safety issues. The control box was a dial instead of a switch box. Additional issues included but not limited to wrong shotgun mounts, wrong trunk storage, etc. The police vehicles are shared with other shifts and Police officers need to be familiar with the vehicles. It's crucial the vehicles all match because you don't want an officer fumbling when every second is needed in an emergency.

Hallinin confirmed that the issues that happened with B & C are being communicated with Ross Vanbibber. The Mayor stated she confirmed the information twice that there is a proper schematic to give the company who will be outfitting the vehicles.

MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE. Hallinin motioned to forward the Ordinance to the next Council meeting on June 4, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Duvall seconded. Roll call (3 Yeas – 0 Nays) Motion carried.

b) AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A SECTION 135.13 TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN PART TIME POSITIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Hedges states this is the funding part of a previous Ordinances that was approved in 2023. The Mayor stated she doesn't know why this was not done in 2023 but it was discovered when they were doing the planner position. There was a change in this Ordinance to have the appointments for these positions now reviewed by the HR Director. This Ordinance will require the part-time Officers to have the same qualifications as full-time Officers. This will allow any part-time Officer to transfer to full-time if that position is available.

Hedges asked if anyone has been hired since it was first approved in 2023. The Mayor states no but they do have one full-time officer who would like to go part-time and another former officer who would like to come on board part-time. The Mayor said they need the funding approved before that can move forward.

Hedges states her concerns are the Citizens are already unhappy about the payouts and now paying for vehicles to be outfitted twice. Hedges states that when this Ordinance was first approved it was deemed an emergency but then no one was hired. Hedges wants to understand why it is an emergency but then no action was ever taken to hire part-time officers. Hallinin reiterated that it was first approved incompletely but no action was taken until now. He also does not feel like this is an emergency.

Acting Deputy Chief Farrelly spoke to say he didn't realize the Ordinance wasn't fully ready until a full-time Officer wanted to go to part-time. He said the Police Department pays for reserve officers that are not putting in any time. If the City switched to part-time officers, then those officers would be required to put in so many hours a week. He believes this would save the City money because they could do away with paying for the reserve officers training and workers compensation.

Hedges asked about current staffing. Farrelly stated the Police Department is currently five Officers down with 2 cadets in the academy.

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Hallinin stated it sounds like this Ordinance could save the City money while guaranteeing hours are worked for the City. Farrelly said this will also help reduce overtime.

Hedges said they can move the Ordinance forward, but it can come out of emergency status at Council.

MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE. Hallinin motioned to forward the Ordinance to the next Council meeting on June 4, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Duvall seconded. Roll call (3 Yeas – 0 Nays) Motion carried.

Old/Other Business: Hedges said the Finance Committee had previously discussed the Safety Levy. The Finance Committee will be meeting again soon to discuss an Ordinance the Mayor has.

Duvall Motion to adjourn at 6:37 p.m., Hallinin seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.