

CIRCLEVILLE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES 6/25/2024

Circleville City Finance Committee convened in City Council Chambers, 127 South Court St, Circleville, OH. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Members Present: Chair Katie Logan Hedges, Committee Members Jeff Hallinin, Tom Duvall, and Clerk Melissa Burns. Other Council Members present: Tom Klitzka and Zach Brooks. Invited Guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, Law Director Kendra Kinney and Auditor Mark Bidwell.

Hedges called the Meeting to Order at 5:00 p.m.

Duvall motioned to approve the Finance Minutes from June 4, 2024. Hallinin seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

a) AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND IMPLEMENT THE LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION AND THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE.

Discussion: Kinney stated that Council has already reviewed the terms of the agreement, but the final edits and terms are now in front of them. Kinney stated some of the revisions include an increase in pay and other non-compensatory incentives to aid employees.

Two items that Hedges noted was Council does have the entire agreement included in their packet and the numbers tied to this agreement have been budgeted for.

MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE: Hallinin motioned to forward the Ordinance to the next Council meeting on July 2, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Duvall seconded. Roll call (3 Yeas – 0 Nays) Motion carried.

b) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND 101 LEGAL RESEARCH & COMPUTER MAINTENANCE FUND 209 SPECIALIZED DOCKET SUBSIDY GRANT FUND 266 AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND 306 OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE

Discussion: Bidwell stated Fund 101 is increasing \$33,000 to help with the cleanup of the High Street Cemetery along the river and \$25,000 for equipment and tools for the new service vehicle. The City has a quarterly maintenance budget that was missed with ABM. Bidwell is increasing Fund 209 by \$8,300 to pay the quarterly maintenance fee of ABM. Fund 306 is increasing by \$35,200 for their portion of the ABM quarterly expense. Fund 266 is increasing by \$56,900 for payroll services. This is paid by the Specialized Docket Subsidy Grant Fund 266 that comes to the City once a year in July. The funds are not ready to be appropriated so funds need to be set aside for payroll until the Grant has been received. Drug testing will be put on hold until those funds arrive. Once the funds are received for the Grant the funds will be reappropriated. Fund 306 also had an audit expense of \$300 that was originally not budgeted for.

MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE: Duvall motioned to forward the Ordinance to the next Council meeting on July 2, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Hallinin seconded. Roll call (3 Yeas – 0 Nays) Motion carried.

c) RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS AT A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024, AN ORDINANCE TO REPLACE THE ONE-HALF PERCENT (.50%) INCOME TAX RATE INCREASE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE SAFETY FORCES IN THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE, TO BE EXPENDED FOR THE SAFETY FORCES PRIOR TO THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE GENERAL FUND, WITH A 0.40% PER ANNUM INCOME TAX FOR A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD TO COMMENCE JANUARY 1, 2025 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2029, DIRECTING THE PICKAWAY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT THE TAX ORDINANCE TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 718.04 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Hedges stated this is a reduction to the current Tax Ordinance from .5% to .4%. Hedges stated if this were to go on the ballot and fail, the Safety forces would be severely impacted. Mayor Blanton stated this would result in a \$2 million dollar decrease if it's not passed. The City would have to move those funds to another fund or cuts would have to be made elsewhere. Mayor Blanton reiterated this is a reduction from 5% to 4% if passed. This would be an \$800k reduction.

Hedges stated they are up against a tight deadline if they want to put this resolution on the ballot.

Hallinin stated the Resolution is for the BOE to add it to the ballot and the Ordinance is for Council to approve.

Hedges addressed the language on the ballot to state the BOE doesn't allow different language to be used. The language would be very similar to what was used last time. Hedges stated again this is a reduction to what residents are currently paying and not a new tax.

Klitzka pointed out the city is growing and if the Levy is going to pass it's going to take everyone working together.

Brooks asked if there are other ways to split the Police and Fire if the Levy doesn't pass.

Hedges stated the budget that has been proposed is based off the Levy not passing. The projected carryover balance at the end of 2025 in the general fund, is only \$38,000. This is not sustainable and other services would not be able to continue. The result of the Levy not passing would have far reaching repercussions.

Hedges stated there have been a lot of positive changes in the City to make the Safety Forces better.

Mayor Blanton stated if the Levy did not pass that in the beginning of 2025, they will start reviewing other options.

MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE: Duvall motioned to forward the Resolution to the next Council meeting on July 2, 2024, with a recommendation for adoption. Hallinin seconded. Roll call (3 Yeas – 0 Nays) Motion carried.

d) AN ORDINANCE REPLACING THE ONE-HALF PERCENT (.50%) INCOME TAX RATE INCREASE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE SAFETY FORCES IN THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE, TO BE EXPENDED FOR THE SAFETY FORCES PRIOR TO THE USE OF THE FUNDS ALLOCATED TO THE GENERAL FUND, WITH A 0.40% PER ANNUM INCOME TAX FOR A FIVE YEAR PERIOD, EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, 2025 AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2029, DIRECTING THE PICKAWAY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT THIS ORDINANCE TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 718.04 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Hedges asked the Law Director to explain the difference between the Resolution and the Ordinance. The Law Director stated Resolutions are designed to be short term and Ordinances are designed to be law. The Resolution is needed to accept, and the Ordinance will be the authorization to add the Levy to the ballot.

MOTION-ROLL CALL-VOTE: Hallinin motioned to forward the Ordinance to the next Council meeting on July 2, 2024, with a recommendation for passage. Duvall seconded. Roll call (3 Yeas – 0 Nays) Motion carried.

Old/Other Business: None

Hallinin motioned to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 5:26 p.m. Duvall seconded. Motion carried

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.