

Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday 03-09-2020 1930 hrs. in Council Meeting Room

The meeting commenced promptly at 1930 hrs.

Committee members in attendance: Chairman David W. Voss, Raejean Hardig, Jim Sunderhaus and Dan Cunningham.

Other Council Members in attendance: Kitty Zech, Amy Richter and Gail Griffin (via Zoom).

Administration in attendance: Mayor Sam Keller and SSD Tom Braun

Others: Police Chief Emmett Stone , Fire Chief Bob Klein and Fire Captain David Miller

Meeting Objectives: To review and discuss the 2021 Budget Appropriations

The chair opened the meeting. To preface discussion of the 2021 Appropriations as provided by the Administration, the chair provided written documentation to everyone relative the City's declining population, a 25% loss in less than fifty years. This decline in population contributes to a loss of earnings tax revenue. Also mentioned, was the high poverty rate in Cheviot compared to the rest of Hamilton County and the State of Ohio and Cheviot having one of the highest property tax rates in Hamilton County.

On a positive note, the chair stated that based on the 2021 Appropriations as provided to the chair that there would be unencumbered funds of \$349,196.17 if accepted as written. The caveat was that Cheviot had this great carryover due to Covid monies of \$271,221.84 and a Worker's Comp refund of \$392,179.35 having been received in 2020. There is also the probability of the City will again receive Covid funding in 2021 in an unknown amount. Cheviot is poised with the expectation to end 2021 in a solid financial condition.

During discussion of the police and fire budget appropriations, both chiefs requested additional funding relative augmenting the number of police and fire personnel. Both chiefs based their requests on safety issues and mounting workloads.. There was spirited debate relative their requests. The chair advised the chiefs that their requests would be considered after all line items were reviewed.

The remaining line items in the General Fund were discussed among council and the administration. All line items were acceptable to council with a few exceptions.. Council after further review of the exceptions agreed to increase and decrease the following line items::

Increase total for Law Director from \$27,800.00 to \$51,300.00 re Special Counsel @ \$25,000.00

Increase total for Full-time Police Salaries from \$1,107,969.00 to \$1,153,390.00 relative create new officer position.

Decrease Part-time Police Salaries from \$56,820.00 to \$40,020.00.

Increase Part-time Fire Salaries from \$214,000.00 to \$240,000.00 re increase staffing.

Increase Capital Improvement Fund from \$0 to \$25,000.00.

Increase:

-\$50,000.00 down payment on new garbage truck costing \$190,000.00. Remainder financed.

-\$64,955.03 payoff on current garbage truck.

-\$34,350.25 payoff on an ambulance.

It was the consensus of the committee and other council members present to vote on the 2021 Annual Appropriation Ordinance with updates at the March 16th, 2021 council meeting.

In conclusion, thanks to everyone on council, the Administration and the police and fire chiefs for their input on the 2021 Appropriations. The revised appropriations for the general fund total is \$5,440,017.65. The Certificate of Availability is \$5,579,792.82. Unencumbered is the amount of \$139,775.17.

The meeting concluded at 2130 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Voss



Raejean Hardig



Jim Sunderhaus

Dan Cunningham

