

Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday 01.17.2023

The meeting commenced at 2009 hrs.

Committee members in attendance: Chairman David W. Voss, John Hardig, Lindsey Jones and Brian Smyth.

Other council members in attendance: Kathleen Zech, Amy Richter and Stefanie Hawk and President of Council Kerry Smyth.

City officials: Mayor Sam Keller SSD Tom Braun, Fire Chief Bob Klein and Clerk of Council Jenny Eilermann.

Others: Matt Ciambarbella.

Meeting Objective: To discuss increasing revenue for the City. This topic is at the request of Mayor Keller.

Discussion: The Mayor was given the floor as he proposed increasing revenue for the City. He stated that City revenues are stagnant and the City lacks any large employers. According to the Mayor, Covid funds from the Federal government has saved our bacon. The increase in police and fire runs necessitated the increase in police and fire personnel. The Mayor also proposed raising the monthly garbage fee from current \$12.00 per month to \$16.00 (\$4.00 per month increase) . Without an increase in revenue, the Mayor stated the City will be in serious financial trouble.

The Finance Chairman advised that of 38 communities in Hamilton county, Cheviot has the sixth highest tax rate in Hamilton County at 20.13 mills. The highest is Lincoln Heights at 57.83 mills, followed by Greenhills at 32.73 mills, Golf Manor at 32.53, Glendale at 21.58 mills, Arlington Heights at 20.52 mills, then Cheviot at 20.13 mills and Elmwood Place at 17.78 mills et cetera. The lowest is Sharonville at 0%

Regarding the increase in garbage fee, Kerry Smyth put forward an idea to charge rental properties an increased fee versus owner occupied residences. A method to carry out the plan, would be to have one set fee per unit but offer a credit to an owner occupied unit. The feasibility will depend on advice from the Law Director.

The finance chair expressed concern about the inequity re charging the same dollar fee to a single family residence versus multi-family units. Every unit of housing should be charged the same except for those utilizing dumpsters. The current \$12.00 fee should be the same for each unit in a building e.g. (two family @ \$24.00, three family at \$36.00 et cetera. The cost of dumpsters pickup should be reevaluated to cover the increasing costs of disposal, fuel costs and labor costs.

There was discussion relative an increase in the earning tax. The current rate is 2%, consideration of a 2.25% rate should be explored by council. Why should property owners always be saddled with increased taxes? The chair will contact the tax department to ascertain how much revenue would be raised utilizing an income tax adjustment.

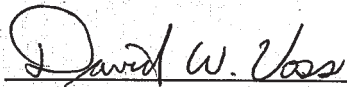
There was no discussion relative reigning in spending. Financial constraint should be part of the equation relative increasing revenue.

In closing, the administration wants an increase of revenues of one million dollars. No exact numbers were forthcoming to accomplish the goal. Council needs firm numbers as to the dollar amount and mills required for a tax levy, the increased income generated by a garbage fee increase and a dollar amount for an income tax increase to explore the revenue proposals.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 02.07.2023 following the regular council meeting in order to obtain financial information from the Auditor, the Treasurer and the Tax Commissioner.

The meeting concluded at 2120 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,



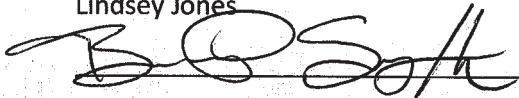
David W. Voss, Finance Chairman



John Hardig



Lindsey Jones



Brian Smyth