

Ways & Means Minutes

Ways & Means Committee Minutes
Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
July 13, 2016

The Ways and Means Committee met Tuesday July 11, 2016 in Council Chambers with these members in attendance:

Dee Hall, Chair
Doug Marmie
Ryan Bubb

We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 16-59** authorizing the clerk of council to submit a request to the Licking County Auditor to certify the total current tax valuation of the City of Newark, Ohio and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated from an additional tax of one (1) mills and declaring an emergency was considered.

Mr. Fraizer- this is the first step in putting a property tax on the ballot. We have heard from the administration about the need for additional revenue for capital improvements, streets, fire service and police service. This would address those as well as an additional need in our community and that is parks and recreation. 75% of this levy would go to Police, Fire and streets and 25% of this would be guaranteed for Parks and Recreation. I encourage this committee to pass this on to full Council for a full Council vote to make sure that all members of the Council are heard and we can properly address this. This is expedited item because of significant date constraints. If it is held up here or in the next reading it will not make the ballot.

Mr. Marmie- so this is just asking for information this is not supporting the tax increase is that correct?

Mr. Fraizer- correct, this goes to the county for them to certify the amount that the levy would equal and then an additional resolution would come before this committee in order for an actual tax increase.

Mr. Marmie- just as a follow up because you brought it up, what is our urgent need for Parks and Recreation?

Mr. Fraizer- Parks and Recreation currently get fully allocated from the General Fund. Most municipalities get guaranteed funding through either property tax or designated income tax. We are a community that is dependent on the General Fund for and all of our parks and all of the services that our parks provide. By providing guaranteed funding

through this not only do we meet all of our capital needs but it also sets us up for the future to have a more stable Parks & Recreation Department.

Mr. Marmie- as far as priorities where do you set priorities for Parks and Recreation versus other items that city services are?

Mr. Fraizer- the greatest benefit to having this funding for parks and recreation is to ease the constraint on our General Fund which is a lot of our problems right now. It is a more roundabout way to encourage a more proactive approach to funding as well as the ability to leverage our needs out of the General Fund and more dedicated funding streams.

Mr. Marmie- can this allocation be changed by future Councils?

Mr. Fraizer- every ten years this goes up for renewal, as far as the legality of changing it

Mr. Marmie- as far as the percentages

Mr. Fraizer- I don't have the answer to that you'd have to ask the Law Director.

Mr. Marmie- have we changed allocations of previous earmarked money?

Mr. Fraizer- are you talking from the General Fund that Council approved the percentages

Mr. Marmie- yes

Mr. Fraizer- I believe last year this Council did

Mr. Marmie- and I believe that it can be changed

Mr. Bubb made a motion to send Resolution 16-59 to full Council to seek information, second by Mr. Marmie

Mr. Rath- what is the cost to the city to send this request to the county? We are on time constraints, if this is to be a ballot issue what is compelling the county to cooperate in a timely manner?

Mr. Fraizer- I talked to county officials, they have already given us an estimate this is an official certification. They expect a two day turnaround time in order for them to certify. Regarding the cost the way I understand it because this is a presidential year it doesn't cost us anything but I'm not positive about that.

Mr. Rath- are you talking about to get it on the ballot or to get it certified?

Mr. Fraizer- from my understanding it doesn't cost to get it certified.

David Greene, 1791 Olympic Court- is there a proposed division of the 75% between paving, Police and Fire and if so what is it?

Mr. Fraizer- there is not a proposed rate for that 75% the expectation that I had for that is that it would be allocated evenly. The greatest problem with that is if we set a permanent funding structure and then those needs change and we have no flexibility to address those changes. I felt putting this proposal forth as is would give us the greatest flexibility to use the money that is necessary.

Motions passed by a 2-1 (Ms. Hall) vote

Dee Hall, Chair