

Finance Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
February 6, 2024
5:45pm

The Finance Committee met in Council Chambers February 5, 2024 with these members in attendance:

Doug Marmie – Chair
Jonathan Lang - Vice Chair
Bradley Chute
Bill Cost Jr.
Michael Houser

We wish to report :

Mr. Marmie - The unappropriated balance of the General Fund is \$769,772.00 and the balance of the ,Budget Stabilization Fund is \$1,586,978.00

1. **Resolution No. 24-08** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 100 General Fund, in the amount of \$1,670.94 (amount rec'd as cash forfeiture from the Court, Court order states a check must be sent to Trumble County for back child support)

100.203.5319	Misc.	1,670.94
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Tim Hickman, Safety Director - The Police Division received a cash forfeiture and the courts have ordered that this money be turned over to Trumble County.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Houser, Second y Mr. Lang, Motion passed 5-0

2. **Resolution No. 24-09 Exp** APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Section 1. There is hereby an appropriation of the unappropriated balance of the 100 General Fund, in the amount of \$3,077.00 (to pay Invoice for legal services)

100.102.5238	Services General	3,077.00
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Law Director Moore - This is in reference to pay for legal services for the Council for the legal case regarding Clerk of Courts.

Mr. Lang - Have you seen that invoice or can we get a copy of it? I'm assuming it's the outside Counsel.

Law Director Moore - We can get you a copy.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 5-0

3. **Resolution No. 24-10** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO PAY BILLS ON BEHALF OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.41 (D), THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor - This is the then and now legislation for the Auditor's office to be able to pay the invoice for the legal services.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 5-0

4. **Ordinance No. 24-04** TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$1,160,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF CHURCH STREET AREA IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIR, INCLUDING ELECTRICAL, SIDEWALK, STREET AND STREETScape, AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor - To make it easy if you prefer we can just discuss 24-04 through 24-06 and the consolidation 24-07. We're going to go ahead and renew these notes, one thing we've done different, the Church Street project and the downtown overhead is going to be completed this year, kind of want to wait until this fall to make the decision if we want to combine it with anything else for a longer term bond, right now I'm not ready to make that decision, but what we did is make it callable so in the fall when we have a few more notes coming due we will have it. The Horns hill Sanitary Sewer project, Brandon is going to pay \$100,000 down on that and it will be created for \$360,000 and the Streambank project, it's my understanding that they are hoping to close this out next year. I think one way or the other whether it's fall or late winter or early spring, these will be going to a long term bond. So, with that being said, if they were to close today I think you're probably looking at 4.25 or 4.75% interest. So, we ask for your support on this the Administration have done a great job along with our Service Director getting these projects in full motion.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 5-0

5. **Ordinance No. 24-05** TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$370,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE CITY'S COST FOR HORNS HILL ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 5-0

6. **Ordinance No. 24-06** TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$520,000 OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE STREAMBANK PROTECTION PROJECT, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF THE SHEET PILE DAM ON RACCOON CREEK, SITE PREPARATION AND ALL

NECESSARY APPURTENANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 5-0

7. **Ordinance No. 24-07** AN ORDINANCE CONSOLIDATING THREE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE ISSUES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, Second by Mr. Houser, Motion passed 5-0

Mr. Marmie - Just for the record this is the consolidation of the three previous bonds we passed.

8. **Resolution No. 24-14** A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WITH REGARD TO THE RETENTION OF OUTSIDE LEGAL COUNSEL

David Rhodes, Service Director - Newark Development Partners is putting together a new Community Authority along with the Administration. It's a specialty type that the City doesn't do. What we're asking for it's Partner Network, the Attorney's name is Mr. Bell and it's about \$25,000 to put that together. What this will do is help raise money to fund the parking garage, there's a gap there and we're trying to close the gap.

Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Lang, Second by Mr. Houser

Mr. Lang - I was just looking at the whereas clause it says \$10,000.

Director Rhodes - The \$10,000 is our portion.

Mr. Marmie - The total is \$25,000, the City is putting in \$10,000.

Motion passed 5-0

Ms. Mossholder - Can we ask a question that's not on the agenda, it's something that was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Marmie - Sure, I'll allow that.

Linda Mossholder, 224 Green Meadow Drive - According to the minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting, there seems to be plans to spend \$30,000 to hire an outside firm to clean up the homeless camps. Since this is an outside firm, will there be a contract with this firm and if there is a contract will this contract have to be approved by Council?

Mr. Marmie - I can just answer that there's not going to be any kind of a long term contract, it's just an as needed basis, if we need to hire an organization to do this in order to protect City workers, the Union did not feel there were safety precautions so it's being taken away from the City and therefore we're going to have to contract for somebody to clean up those sites, but it's no type of a long term contract it's just an as needed, if we need services then we would contract with somebody.

Ms. Mossholder - So, how will it be determined on an as needed basis?

Mr. Marmie - When we need to clean up a homeless camp.

Ms. Mossholder - Since I work with a lot of the people who could be affected by having an outside firm come in to clean up the camps, so, you said this will be as needed, it won't be starting Monday and go for three months, is there a time limit on when this money has to

be spent or just for the rest of this fiscal year?

Mr. Marmie - I think there's a misunderstanding. We put together and allowed the City to be able to contract. We moved money from what we were utilizing in order to put money into where we can use it for outside contracts, for outside services. So, there's no change in our philosophy of cleaning up, if we have need to clean up a facility we have the need to clean it up and it's tax payer dollars regardless. We're spending an exorbitant amount of tax payer dollars cleaning up these homeless camps because they can't keep it clean, they just litter, they trash it, they leave stuff, so that's what happening and we have to pay for that. The citizens of Newark are paying for it and it's ridiculous, you're right that we have to hire somebody to do this, but it has to be done because it's a nuisance to our community and so therefore, it's something that's necessary and this is the manner in which we're going to handle it.

Ms. Mossholder - And I do understand all of that Mr. Marmie. So, these clean ups would be conducted on abandoned camps and camps that are currently occupied?

Mr. Marmie - We're not changing our philosophy as far as how we're cleaning up and when we're cleaning up.

Ms. Mossholder - If these people are hired, how will they identify themselves if they are going into a camp that's occupied? I'm just concerned about people's safety on both sides.

Mr. Marmie - It's nothing different than what we've been currently doing. Our Police are usually notified, there is notification, we have not done anything to the contrary, nothing will change. Everything procedurally will be the same, it's just the person or entity that's cleaning it up is not going to be City employees, it's now going to be this firm.

Ms. Mossholder - Then they would be accompanied by someone from the City so the person at the camp would know who they are.

Mr. Marmie - No ma'am, not necessarily.

Mr. Lang - I think the intent, this is just supplementing the Service Department, instead of taking an employee it's just an independent contractor.

Ms. Mossholder - My concern because I've worked with the population over a number of years. Some of our population do have some mental health issues and if somebody strange comes in and starts cleaning up their area there could be a confrontation and we just want to make sure on both sides that safety is upheld, so that's part of my concern. So, basically the procedure would be the same as it is being done now, so someone would come in and announce why they are there and tell them what they are going to do.

Mr. Marmie - Usually, and the Chief can correct me, but from what I understand, we give them notification that you have so much time to vacate, we allow people to vacate, they can take any of their property that they so choose and that is already set in place. We don't just go in there last second and not notify folks and we're not going to change it utilizing these folks. It's going to be the same exact procedure that we've been doing.

Ms. Mossholder - One of the other concerns I have is , so it's the same procedures, so if there are pets on the premises and the only reason I'm asking this if somebody is coming in and is not familiar with the people who are in the camp, some of the people do have pets, I know one of the regulars who comes to the outreach has a dog who just had puppies, so if somebody comes in and are asking them to leave they would have time to collect their animals so the animals would not be taken.

Mr. Marmie - Here is the one thing I would say, the City has gone overboard to protect folks that are doing things that they should not be doing and are at a location they should not be. We have gone overboard to ensure humanity has been served and that we are taking care of them and that we are not being inhumane in the manner in which we are doing things. Nothing will change with that. We will continue to be in the same vein as we were before, but the bottom line is, they're not supposed to be there and we still go above and beyond, our Law Director does everything to make sure we go above and beyond, our safety forces, Police and Fire are usually involved and the same with our Property Maintenance and anybody else that's involved in these camps. We are doing it in the most humane way possible and nothing will change that.

Ms. Mossholder - I noticed in the comments there was a concern about people not being trained on house to use Narcan in the minutes, we would be happy to train anyone who is going into the camps on how to use Narcan, but I'm sure your safety forces know how to use Narcan.

Mr. Marmie - That was when the City employees were doing it and that was one of the Union's objections, so therefore the City just acknowledged.

Ms. Mossholder - Okay, thank you for your time.

Mr. Marmie - My pleasure.

Meeting stands adjourned

Doug Marmie, Chair