

## Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
August 15, 2017

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday August 14, 2017 following the Finance Committee with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath  
Bill Cost Jr  
Jonathan Lang for Mark Fraizer  
Carol Floyd  
Ryan Bubb

We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 17-57** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to enter into an agreement for professional services relative to reimbursement of fuel taxes was considered.

**Director Rhodes-** we became aware that there might be the availability of a rebate of some fuel taxes. We aren't exactly sure how to guide through and apply for those so there are companies out there that does that and all this allows me to do is enter into an agreement to have that examined by the company. What the basic agreement would say is along these lines, if there is availability for some rebates the first year they would file all of the applicable paperwork and show us how to do it. They would take a portion of those refunds the first year and every year thereafter we would have the knowledge to do it ourselves. If we find out there is no availability or we don't qualify there is no cost to the City.

**Mr. Rath-** there are no upfront costs and they are only going to take a percentage of the reimbursement if there is any. Do you know what the percentage is?

**Director Rhodes-** it would be 50% but they would give us all the applicable tools to move forward in the future. I spent a great deal of time talking to Doug Sassen about this and going over this and at the end of the day we both boiled it down to the fact that the city has never done this, we have never looked at this, we don't know what the refunds would be if any but why not have somebody take a look at it and if we pay a onetime fee and 50% of something that we would have never got the first time then we can do it on our own from year to year it seemed reasonable.

**Mr. Lang-** have we looked at any other companies and compared rates?

**Director Rhodes-** no, this was an unusual thing this fellow came in and we started talking about opportunities for the city. He brought many things but this is the one area

he brought to my attention that we had not examined. He will show us these savings if there are any and we will take a look at it.

**Mr. Rath-** but we don't know if there are competitors out there that do this also?

**Director Rhodes-** no

**Mr. Cost-** will he just be looking at the previous year or how far back?

**Director Rhodes-** I believe it is the previous year and it would be Police, Fire, Street, Traffic and Water.

**Motion by Mrs. Floyd to send to full Council, second by Mr. Bubb**

**Director Rhodes-** let me say that what he is asking for is 50% of the savings but that doesn't mean that is necessarily what I am going to give him, I am telling you what he asked for. When it gets to the point where we have an ability to negotiate it I will start at a different number. That is a starting number I would say.

**Mr. Rath-** that is a big chunk.

**Director Rhodes-** yes, it does sound like a lot. If it is \$1,000.00 it is \$500.00 or if it is \$10,000.00 it is \$5,000.00 so yes it does become that but we will get an idea of what it will look like.

**Mr. Rath-** and he is taking all of the risk.

**Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**

Jeff Rath, Chair