

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AUGUST 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Jim Matuszak. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak, Tim McCarthy, and Becky Williams. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Laura Alkire, Law Director, Dave Creps, Finance Director, and Steve Bronder, Income Tax Commissioner.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCarthy said that fellow Council member Jonathan Smith has brought up giving preference to local businesses when awarding contracts. Ms. Alkire said that we're pretty much already doing that, and she wonders whether there is a need to codify it. She added that the cities of Cleveland and Columbus have adopted rules about contractors employing residents of their cities and are now fighting it out in court. Ms. Kabat said that when choosing design and engineering firms one of the questions the firms are asked is how much time would it take them to be on site, meaning their location is already factored in. She added that there are varying definitions of local business. Mr. Matuszak asked the Administration to forward to Mr. Smith the information the City has regarding this matter. Ms. Kabat said that she would talk to Mr. Smith and follow-up with the committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Alkire stated that 26610 Eckel, LLC has applied to do an Energy Special Improvement District (ESID) project. She said that this is the second project since the district was created, reminding the committee of the first project in January involving the YMCA. She said that the ESID Board will be considering this project for final approval at their September 5 meeting and the applicant has requested that the assessment begin in January 2020. She said that they are requesting \$243,000 in financing for heating and insulating. Ms. Alkire explained that it is a three step assessment procedure with the City acting as a pass through for the assessment. Mr. Matuszak asked if there is any cost to the City, and Ms. Alkire said there is not. Mr. Matuszak said that he would like to know if the applicant is in good standing with the City's Income Tax Division. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the resolution of necessity, the ordinance to proceed, and the assessing ordinance with the condition that a satisfactory response is received by or on behalf of the committee regarding the applicant's standing with the City's Income Tax Division.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed expenditures greater than \$5,000 for the month of July. Mr. McCarthy asked about a \$7,000 payment to the JDI Group. Ms. Kabat said that is for design of the proposed renovations at the Department of Public Utilities. Ms. Williams asked if we are close to being done at the new fire station. Ms. Kabat said that there are a couple of open contracts including the back-up police dispatch system that has yet to

be installed. Ms. Williams asked about the status of the court renovations, and Ms. Kabat said they are working on some punch list items.

Mr. Creps reported that the balance in the Health and Welfare fund as of July 31, 2019 was \$860,713.41. He said that there were a couple of big claims so the balance is down from the previous month-end balance.

The Administration requested approval of legislation to allow them to request permission from the State Auditor's Office to create a special revenue fund for general fund grants. Ms. Kabat explained that having receipt of the grant funds and disbursement of the related expenses accounted for using a special revenue fund would not impact the operating budget. Matching funds from the City, if any, would still be required to go through the operating budget. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the legislation.

INCOME TAX COLLECTION

Mr. Bronder reported that income tax collections for July were approximately \$1.3 million dollars which is up 4% from July 2018. Year-to-date collections for the first seven months of the year are approximately \$13.7 million which is up 8.8% from the same period a year ago. Mr. Bronder said that collections have been up every month so far this year across all account types.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding the review of credit card statements and what specifically the State Auditor's office is looking for the President of Council to do as part of the review. Mr. Creps said that it is his understanding that the President of Council's signature indicates that they have received copies of the statements. Ms. Kabat said that our independent auditor has indicated that they have received no guidance from the State Auditor's office regarding this requirement. Mr. Matuszak said that he will contact the State Auditor's office to get clarification.

Ms. Kabat notified the committee that complaints have been received from a couple of residents on Elm Street about a food truck that parks in front of the Juice Bar on Elm Street. The complaint is that the generator on the food truck is loud and bothers the residents. Ms. Kabat said she will be meeting with the Police Chief and Planning and Zoning Administrator to discuss our ability to monitor noise levels.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Matuszak, Chairman
Finance & Economic Development Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.