

FINANCE COMMITTEE

APRIL 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Tom Mackin. Committee members present were Todd Grayson, Tom Mackin and Jim Matuszak. Also present were Dave Creps, Finance Director and Steve Bronder, Income Tax Commissioner.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed expenditures over \$5,000 for the month of March. There was a brief discussion regarding contracted legal fees.

Mr. Creps reported that the balance of the health insurance fund as of March 31, 2015 was \$206,604.41.

2015 APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET – FIRST AMENDMENT

Mr. Mackin stated that for the first amendment to the 2015 Appropriations Budget, he is recommending that one million dollars be budgeted for Riverside Park improvements and \$700,000 be budgeted for fire station possible improvements. He said that if we are successful in obtaining grant money for the park, the extra funds should be held in the general fund ending balance. He said that it is his understanding that the Administration has asked the designer/consultant to keep the plan for Riverside Park improvements at one million dollars and they are putting together two or three options that will be taken to the Recreation Committee. Mr. Grayson said that he is okay with the million dollars for Riverside Park. He said we can still get something functional done and it will be better than what we have. Paul Belazis, Front Street, asked if the Administration is clear that the plan for Riverside Park has to be approved before any money is spent. Mr. Grayson said that he is against the \$700,000 for possible fire station improvements because we still don't know what we need and even after we determine what is needed, it will take over a year to get the plans done. He said that if we decide to build another station, we need funds for the operating costs and there is not an additional \$2 million dollars available in the budget.

The Committee recommended 3-0 to amend the first budget amendment to include one million dollars for Riverside Park improvements. The Committee agreed 2-1 to recommend that the first budget amendment include \$700,000 for possible fire station improvements.

Mr. Grayson said that he would like to see funds budgeted to do upgrades to the Diverging Diamond Intersection that ODOT will be installing on SR25 at 475. He said that the area is a gateway to the City and ODOT does the bare bones and the City would have to pay for any upgrades or signage. Mr. Mackin said that he is not opposed to it, but it is a want and we will need to do something with Fire at some point. He suggested that dollars for DDI upgrades be put in the 2016 budget. Mr. Grayson said that design work would have to be done this year because it's scheduled for construction in 2016. Mr. Matuszak said that he also is not opposed to the idea but we will need to work on the timing. He said that his priority would be Fire, then the DDI and Riverside Park would be in the same

category. Mr. Grayson reiterated that we still don't have the operating costs for a second fire station. Mr. Matuszak said that the operating costs will come from growth in the City and the need for fire station improvements is timed to that growth.

STREET TREE AND STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Creps said that the amount for the Street Tree Assessment is not changing and is proposed to be \$50,000. Additional funds will be transferred from the General Fund. Mr. Grayson said that he is not opposed to funding the Street Tree Fund, but he would like to see it all come from the General Fund. The Committee agreed 2-1 to recommend approval of the assessment for Street Trees.

Mr. Creps stated that the Street Lighting assessment is for two years and generates \$180,000 a year. There is no increase, and it generates enough revenue to pay the electric bills. Mr. Mackin asked if there is enough time to do two readings and Mr. Creps said that there is. The Committee agreed 2-1 to recommend approval.

REFUSE LEVY

Mr. Creps stated that a resolution is needed to put the refuse levy on the ballot. It is for one mill and generates about \$550,000. He said that City Council would only be authorizing action to put it on the ballot; they would not be approving the tax. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval.

TAX COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Bronder reported that collections for March were approximately \$1.4 million dollars which is down 3% from March of 2014. He noted, however, that collections for last March were up 17% from the previous year. He said that year to date collections are up almost 2%. He said that they have concluded the tax filing season and things went pretty smoothly. Mr. Matuszak asked taxpayer complaints. Mr. Bronder said that probably the biggest complaint is that even though you can e-file, you still have to send in supporting documents like W-2's because unlike the State, we do not receive copies of the W-2's from the Federal government.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Mackin, Chairman
Finance Committee

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.