

FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

APRIL 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Mark Weber. Committee members present were Deborah Born and Mark Weber. Tim McCarthy was absent. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, Dave Creps, Finance Director, Amber Rathburn, Deputy Finance Director, and Steve Bronder, Income Tax Commissioner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Weber stated that hearing no objections, the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting were approved. Ms. Born said the minutes were already approved at the City Council meeting, and she was abstaining.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT- TOLEDO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tim Schneider, Manager of Local Government Affairs for the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, was present via teleconference to request that City Council approve a resolution urging the United States Postal Service to use a mail sorting center in Toledo. Mr. Schneider said that in 2012, mail sorting was transferred from Toledo to the Michigan Metroplex. More than twenty local area governments have either approved or are considering similar resolutions. Mr. Schneider said that in the latest survey they conducted of their members, 100% of the respondents said that the delays in mail service have negatively impacted them and their customers. Mr. Weber stated that our water and sewer customers have definitely been impacted because utility bills have been delayed. He said that he supports the idea, and Ms. Born agreed. They asked Mr. Schneider to attend the City Council meeting if he is available.

DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES

Ms. Sandretto stated that any vehicles with a Kelly Blue Book value in excess of \$1,000 must have City Council approval for their disposal. She requested approval to dispose of the following vehicles:

Fire Division - 2009 Chevy Impala with 63,225 miles and an estimated KBB value of \$4,834-\$6,107

Department of Public Service – 2001 International 4900 DT 466E Heavy Duty Truck with 56,266 miles and an estimated KBB value of \$7,950 & 2000 International DT 466E Heavy Duty Truck with 51,007 miles and an estimated KBB value of \$7,950

Ms. Born asked why this is going through the Finance Committee. Ms. Sandretto explained that vehicle disposals will be brought to the Finance Committee from now on because it is a financial issue. The Committee agreed 2-0 to recommend approval.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Glenn Grisdale, the City's economic development consultant, was present to review his report of the 2020 CRA and TIF programs. He said that nine CRA's and one TIF were monitored for fiscal year 2020. All generally met or exceeded their performance thresholds, and all school donation agreements are current or have been invoiced.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Committee reviewed expenditures greater than \$5,000 for the month of March. Ms. Born asked about a payment to OHM for the Land Use Plan, and Mr. Weber asked about payments to WeCare, Wex Bank, and MTM Transit. Ms. Born asked who owns MTM Transit and where they are located. Ms. Kabat said she would send a follow-up email with that information.

Mr. Creps reported that the balance in the health insurance fund as of March 31, 2021 was \$178,665.61 which is down from February. He said that the previous third party administrator has been processing run out claims which accounts for some of the decrease.

Ms. Sandretto stated that the refuse levy is an odd numbered year levy which was last on the ballot in November of 2019. This is a two-step process and the first step is a Resolution of Necessity. If approved, the resolution will be sent to the Wood County Auditor who will send us a certificate showing how much the levy will generate. Another resolution will be needed for the levy to actually be placed on the ballot. Mr. Weber asked if the amount has been increased, and Ms. Sandretto said it remains at one mill. Mr. Creps noted that this is a replacement levy. The Committee agreed 2-0 to recommend approval of the resolution of necessity.

Ms. Sandretto stated that the street tree assessment which is .1 mill is done every year, and the lighting assessment which is .3 mills is done in odd numbered years. She said that like the refuse levy, the first step in the process is a resolution of necessity. Mr. Weber asked if there is any way these can ever be eliminated. He said that they aren't a lot, but they add up. Ms. Born agreed. Ms. Kabat stated that they have not discussed it internally, but City Council can make that decision. Mr. Creps said that he believes most municipalities collect these assessments. Mr. Weber asked if many complaints are received about these assessments. Ms. Kabat said she has not heard any complaints about the lighting, but occasionally someone will call in and want a street tree and they aren't happy that they are placed on a list. The Committee agreed 2-0 to move the resolutions on to City Council.

Ms. Sandretto requested approval of a contract with Delta Dental for employees' dental insurance. She said the contract actually expired March 31st, but there is language in the contract that it rolls over anyway. Mr. Creps noted that there is no change in the rates. The Committee agreed 2-0 to recommend approval of the contract.

TAX COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Bronder reported that tax collections for the month of March were \$1.6 million which compared to March 2020 is an 18% increase. However, Mr. Bronder said that last year the building was shut down for part of March, and non-essential personnel were sent home. He said that he compared March of 2021 to March of 2019, and collections for March are up 1.5% over 2019. Year to date collections for the first quarter were \$4.9 million which is up 4% from last year and up 3.1% from the first quarter of 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weber asked about the City receiving Covid relief money. Ms. Kabat said that the City will be receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, but are still waiting on specific guidance as to what the funds can be used for. She said that she has heard it can be used for tax replacement. Mr. Weber asked that once the Administration receives the guidelines, that the information be passed along to City Council. Ms. Kabat said that Council President Smith has talked to the Mayor about it.

Mr. Weber asked Ms. Born if there were any budget items she would like to discuss since she expressed concerns when the budget amendment was approved. Ms. Born said she addressed those issues at that time. Mr. Weber encouraged her to bring up concerns regarding the budget at the committee level so they can discuss it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Weber, Chairman
Finance & Economic Development Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.