

**Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**April 14, 2009**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Members:** Robyn Jones, Chairwoman; Mark Masser, Jeff McClelland

**Roll Call:** All members present.

**Others present:** Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Larry Heiser, Ben Kessler, President Lampke, Bruce Langner, Jed Morison, Chief Rinehart, Rick Weber.

**Review of Minutes:** Approved Minutes of March 31st, 2009

**Presentation and/or Special Guests:** Bill Harvey, Service Director regarding streets and sidewalk repairs. Mr. Harvey distributed a breakdown of the annual street program project. The alternate bids, depending on the price, the City may be able to do more. Mr. Harvey stated that the City hopefully will be receiving \$110,000 from the stimulus package for Parkview. MORPC will be providing 1.1 million for sidewalks and handicap facilities (i.e. ramps, light crossings) and can also hopefully offset some of the street costs. He would like to borrow 2 – 2 ½ million dollars this year and 1 million next year and pay it back from the street and water fund. Mr. Kessler said Parkview is \$275,000 to rebuild and rough out the brick. Mr. Harvey explained that Montrose has more damage to the street and needs rebuilt which explains the difference in pricing. Mr. Weber asked if it is possible to borrow from the funds and not raise the rates. Mr. Harvey said that Sheridan and Francis will be using ODOT funds. Mr. Weber asked if Council voted to do all of the streets, is that using funds from the street and alley funds. Mr. Heiser answered that it is still out of the street and alley funds but the City would have to start doing it out of the general fund and then reimburse next year with bonds. Mr. Weber said he is all for getting a jump on the street repairs but borrowing from the street and alley funds leaves less money to spend each year out of those funds. We have committed to do sidewalks at the City's expense and then place the responsibility back to the citizens. Mr. Harvey stated that until the bids are complete, we don't have a definite number to project. He said that it may be less than his current estimate. President Lampke stated that he did not want to play the market but rather thinks Council needs to do the right thing and base their decision making on that premise. Mr. Masser had questions regarding the order of the streets and asked which ones would be eliminated if Council voted "no" to the proposal. Mr. Harvey answered Parkview is an alternative street. Assuming water lines could be fixed, he would move up Merkle on the list.

The one million one hundred thousand will be used for sidewalk ramps and other devices (i.e. lower push buttons at crosswalks, etc.) for the handicap. The catch is they will provide no advance engineering fees in the funding which run approximately \$150,000 in cost. If we don't give them a 1.145 million dollar plan, we lose the funding. Mr. Weber asked how many years ahead for Montrose. Mr. Harvey said last year they worked on the first block by the school but now we have sewer and water problems. In addition, if that

street is torn up, the City would want to install conduit for fiber optic cable. The City can save millions of dollars by working on the sidewalks and streets. An additional cost will be, Mark Moore comes out of the work force regarding trees being damaged. Mr. Harvey stated that the City would want to start fiber optics on Main or Broad Street which is clearly a possibility. Mr. Kessler asked about using different material to make better water lines. Mr. Harvey said the shift and cracking over time is the problem. There are no flexible water line materials, however the City could increase the size which helps pressure and fire lines. If the ground shifts, the water lines snap. We use cooper lines and we might replace lead pipes that had been used previously in some places. Mr. McClelland asked if cooper is better material than PVC for water lines. Mr. Harvey answered yes, cooper is superior for water lines. Mr. Kessler asked if there would be any salvage value in the cooper used in previous projects. Mr. Harvey said that is a possibility. Mr. Weber stated that as Service Chair, we have to trust Mr. Harvey on what streets need to be done first. Mr. Weber said he wants to make sure the Council sticks to the commitment of sidewalk repairs. He added that the Service Department is basically at the mercy of how Council wants to provide funding. Ms. Jones asked if a bond payment can be made. Mr. Heiser answer yes that can be done.

**City Attorney, Lou Chodosh re: highlights of police contract:** The F.O.P. contract has a few differences including the non-economic changes such as grievance procedures and length of time to resolve the same. Although grievance procedures against the Bexley officers are rare, the language was cleaned up regarding arbitration; internal review; the difference in procedures between civil or criminal allocations; in addition to more specifics about labor relations. The economic differences are a fitness program including runs as an incentive for days off; wage increase of 3% per year for three years; longevity increase; .90 to \$1.00 shift differential; life insurance raised from \$50,000 to \$75,000 then \$100,000 the third year.

The City agreed to take a look at the whole issue of a HSA Plan in lieu of the current HRA Plan. President Lampke stated that it would be difficult to attempt a change without any definite figures based on past history without even a full year to evaluate. Mr. Chodosh stated that the City only guaranteed that we would take a look at the HSA Plan – there was no guarantee there would be a change. This package is comparable with Dublin, Hilliard and Upper Arlington. The F.O.P. and the City is comfortable with this agreement. Bexley has a good force and he stated that he is truly amazed about 99% of what officers do that is confidential and most people aren't even aware of. This contract will help Bexley keep a good police force. Mr. Morison thanked Mr. Chodosh for his work in the negotiations with the F.O.P. and stated that he had done a very nice job.

#### **Ordinances & Resolutions –**

- a. **Finance Committee**–Robyn Jones, Chairwoman

#### **Third Readings.**

**Ordinance 13-09-** to create a special fund designated Sheridan Avenue and Francis Avenue Reconstruction Fund and to appropriate \$3,754,000 from this fund for the

purpose of recording revenues and expenses related to the Sheridan and Francis Avenues reconstruction, introduced by Mr. Masser, (Introduced on March 10, 2009) **No Action**

**Ordinance 14-09-** to authorize a transfer of \$70,000 from the General Fund to the Sheridan Avenue and Francis Avenue Reconstruction Fund and to authorize a transfer of \$70,000 from the Water Fund to the Sheridan Avenue and Francis Avenue Reconstruction Fund, introduced by Mr. Masser, (Introduced on March 10, 2009) **No Action**

**Ordinance 15-09** to reduce appropriations in the General Fund by \$100,000 and to reduce the appropriation in the Water Fund by \$100,000, introduced by Mr. Masser, (Introduced on March 10, 2009) **No Action**

**Ms. Jones stated that the above three Ordinances had already been discussed in the last Finance Meeting.**

**Second Amended Ordinance 18-09** authorizing supplemental appropriations for the calendar year ending December 31, 2009, introduced by Mr. Masser, (Introduced on March 10, 2009) **No Action**

Mr. Hale stated when the budget for 2009 had been passed; the police fund still contained 4.2% wage calculation. He stated that he has since made the adjustment to a 3% increase. Mr. Hale had moved funds from the police overtime budget and the street funds to be able to balance the budget. He needed to spread out the savings amount and this Ordinance will give him the permission to move those funds back to the police overtime budget. The other Ordinance moves the funds from the general fund to the street fund. President Lampke asked how the funds were reduced when Council had passed those funds specifically for police overtime. Mr. Hale explained the Mr. Heiser had been on out-of-town that week and they were not prepared for the budget to pass when it did at that meeting. President Lampke informed Mr. Hale that he needs to be more aggressive in speaking up if there is a problem or concern when an Ordinance is to be voted on. President Lampke stated that he did not want to see this occur again in the future.

#### **Second Readings.**

**Ordinance 19-09** to authorize the Mayor of the City of Bexley or his designated representative to enter into an agreement with the Franklin County Board of Health, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 3709.08 and 3709.281, introduced by Ms. Jones, (Introduced on March 31, 2009) **No Action.**

**Ordinance 21-09** to authorize the Mayor, City Attorney and Chief of Police of the City of Bexley, Ohio to enter into a labor agreement with F.O.P. Capital City Lodge No. 9 for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011, introduced by Ms. Jones, (Introduced on March 31, 2009) **Vote 3-0 to recommend for passage.**

#### **First Readings.**

None.

**Resolutions –**  
None.

**New Business: None.**

**Old Business: None.**

**Adjourned 6:55 p.m.**