Finance & Judiciary Committee Meeting
MINUTES
July 28, 2009
6:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: All present.

Other Present: Mayor Brennan, Captain Buty, Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Larry Heiser, Ben Kessler, President Lampke, Jed Morison, Mike Price and Rick Weber.

Review of Minutes: July 14, 2009 – Approved.

Presentation and/or Special Guests: None

Ordinances & Resolutions –

a. **Finance Committee Report– Robyn Jones, Chair**

Third Readings.

Ordinance No. 34-09 to appropriate $48,354.00 from the Unencumbered General Fund for the purpose of paying the fire contract with the City of Columbus, introduced by Ms. Jones, (Introduced on June 23, 2009). Discussed at last meeting. **No Action**

Ordinance No. 35-09 to amend Ordinance 65-97 which placed a moratorium on the hiring of full-time and part-time employees, both new hires and replacement hires, to allow for the hiring of both full-time and part-time employees without the approval of Council, provided that the salary has been approved in the budget, introduced by Ms. Jones, (Introduced on June 23, 2009) **Ms. Jones stated this Ordinance needs to be Tabled.**

Ordinance 36-09 to appropriate $229,348.00 from the unencumbered General Fund for the purpose to purchase Service Department equipment and three police cruisers introduced by Ms. Jones, (Introduced on June 23, 2009) **Amended and recommended for passage, Vote 3-0 in favor.**

Mr. Hale stated the lease on the police cruisers have the highest interest rate. There is no penalty to pay off the balance. Mr. Harvey stated the term "equipment" would include leaf machines and work trucks. Mr. Hale said it is more cost effective to buy both the equipment and cruisers than to lease. The

purchase of these leased items would save the City money. In the past, it had been more financially beneficial to lease, but now it is better to purchase. Mr. Masser was concerned how much money would be taken from the general fund and how much from the capital improvement funds. He stated he had requested a report from Mr. Heiser on the funds for the estate tax. Mr. Heiser stated the report would be forthcoming.

Mr. McClelland asked how many cruisers would be included in this change. Mr. Hale said he would say 4 currently but we are expecting to purchase 3 more next year. Mr. Masser said we never discussed the capital improvement fund. Mr. Masser said he thought this was a piece mill way of doing business and Mr. Heiser agreed. Ms. Jones said they have been waiting for the Task Force report. Ms. Jones stated the September report will be completed soon. Mr. Masser said it seems we have gone a different way from just funding the capital improvements.

Mr. Hale said they had appropriated $150,000 in the budget which can be applied to the four lease payments on the cruisers. He said we will be paying these off in cash.

Ms. Jones stated the Ordinance needs to be "Amended" to read "leased equipment or vehicles" in lieu of "purchasing".

Ordinance 37-09 to appropriate $15,000 from the unencumbered General Fund to provide for deaf interpretation and other special needs of the residents during City sponsored programs, meetings and events, introduced by Ms. Jones (Introduced June 23, 2009) **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

Ordinance 38-09 to increase the salary of the Parks and Recreation Grounds Supervisor position to $53,000 per annum beginning July 1, 2009, introduced by Ms. Jones (Introduced June 23, 2009) **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

Second Readings.

Ordinance No. 41-09 to establish the rate of pay for the Recreation Director at $60,000 per year effective July 1, 2009, introduced by Ms. Jones, (Introduced on July 14, 2009)

Mr. McClelland stated that Mr. Price was doing a great job and both the Recreation Board and Mayor Brennan are very pleased with his performance. He added this would be a well earned salary. Mr. Masser stated that he expects Mr. Price to take the department to a new level; take the initiative and face new challenges. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

First Readings.
None.

Resolutions –

Resolution 10-09 accepting a grant in the amount of $7,500 from The Columbus Foundation for the College-Livingston Gateway Project and authorizing the Mayor to sign all appropriate documents accepting said grant, introduced by Ms. Jones, second reading (Introduced on July 14, 2009)

Mr. Harvey said this Resolution has to be accepted before the City can accept the grant money. **Vote 3-0 to suspend and adopt.**

New Business: None.

Old Business: Mr. Morison made a request for Ordinance 41-09 to be suspended and adopted this evening since it involves retroactive salary for an employee. Mr. Masser stated he would be in agreement.

Mr. Harvey asked that Ordinance 35-09 be added also. Ms. Jones stated that Ordinance was suggested to be tabled until additional information is received. Mr. Harvey stated he can't hire even part-time employees without the help of this Ordinance. Mr. Masser asked Ms. Jones what information she was waiting for in regards to this Ordinance. Ms. Jones responded by stating that she stated at the previous meeting that she would be in agreement if it was amended to add "union" employees. Mayor Brennan stated the Service Department is short staffed. The overtime is costly to the City. There had been a water break over the weekend at Rubino's and the staff had to work the weekend to fix it. We currently have two openings, both of which are union employees so their pay range is already fixed. Mr. Masser asked what information the Finance Committee was requesting for before considering this Ordinance. Ms. Jones stated that in the past, Council has had considerable discussion regarding the pay of employees. She said she has requested a pay range for all positions before they can consider this Ordinance. Mr. Harvey agreed to amend the Ordinance to state "union" employees but added he will be bringing a new Ordinance regarding non-union employees. Committee agreed to amend the Ordinance to "union" employees. **Vote was 3-0 to recommend Amended Ordinance 35-09.**

Executive Session: Mr. McClelland made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 223.03 (d) to discuss employee salaries. Motion seconded by Ms. Jones. Adjourned to Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:00 p.m.