

**CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES**

December 11, 2013

Special Finance Committee Meeting

The Special Finance Committee meeting of Council was called to order by Chairman Bennett, at approximately 6:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway. Roll was called and the following members were present:

Jeff Davis Maria Klemack-McGraw Ted Berry Steve Bennett Melissa Albright

1. The Chair recognized Mayor Stage, who expressed appreciation for all the meetings to go over the Budget. He said they heard from that discussion that some felt the ratio was out of whack. He said they want to continue to operate the City in an ultra conservative mode. He said since the meeting Tuesday, 12/7, they received the last payment of RITA withholdings for 2013. He said it became evident that the revenue projections that they were doing their baseline from were too conservative. So, they have raised the baseline of their estimates on revenue, but still conservative – not ultra conservative. The ratio of income tax collections to operating expenses is now narrowed to 103%. He said the other ratio that they didn't talk too much about is *percent of expenses to total revenue*. He said that ratio for 2013 was estimated at 85%, but came in at 74%. The 2014 estimate is 85%. He said even though we are spending more than we are collecting from Income Taxes, we are far from spending more than what we are collecting from total revenue.
2. Mr. Bennett asked if these numbers take into consideration the roll over from current year into next year of unexpended cash. Mayor Stage said yes, and that is the reason for such a fluctuation. He said his point is that he devised the ratio of total expenses to income tax collection as a barometer. We have never come close to spending all of the revenue. He said, with this budget they are 15% less than they know and feel comfortable in knowing what the total revenue will be for 2014. Discussion took place over how the estimates are arrived at.
3. Mr. Berry moved to accept the reduction in the General Government Fund and BWC Self Fund by \$149,000.00; seconded by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis	Yes
Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Bennett	Yes
Ms. Albright	Yes

4. Mr. Berry said he appreciated the adjustments by the Administration. He also recognized the additional information that the Mayor set out about the Historical Commission. He asked if the Historical Commission had seen this information and voted on the budget provided. Mayor Stage said no. Mr. Berry said he would like to see the Historical Commission approve this budget and submit it later for approval. Mayor Stage said he and Mr. Hale, of the Commission, put together the information provided and the Commission was informed that he would be asking for funding in the 2014 Appropriation Ordinance. Mr. Berry said he feels that this new Commission should have input.

Mr. Berry moved to remove \$50,000.00 from the Department of History, for the Historical Commission; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Lengthy discussion took place over this motion. Mayor Stage stated that the Commission has a meeting on Friday, 12/13, at 1:00 p.m. He will provide Council with a copy of their Minutes to

reflect their review of the budget, and approval thereof. He said if Council felt this money should still be removed after the Commission met and reviewed it, they could do so Monday. Mr. Berry and Mr. Bennett withdrew their motion and second.

5. Mr. Berry asked how Council felt about removing the Capital Improvement projects and having them brought to Council during the course of the year, once there were plans and bids to back up the appropriation amounts. He asked how many were study's. Mr. Keller, EMH&T, said none were studies. The amounts shown are to cover costs for design, plans & bidding each project.

Mr. Bennett questioned the amount under Windsor Park. He said they heard that \$900,000.00 may not cover the entire cost of the project and feels this one may need more work. He said it seems that we start projects in our parks but don't completely finish them before we begin another. He said it seems like we need to focus on one project and complete it fully before moving on to another.

Ms. Albright stated she was not in favor to removing all Capital Improvements project funding from the Budget. She said it would slow down and perhaps prevent project from being started.

Mr. Davis said he agrees with the holistic approach, but doesn't necessarily agree with removing all projects. He said there seems to be some frustration with Capital Improvements in that once the money is appropriated, communication stops and Council is not informed of the bids; what the plans look like; where the money goes; etc. Mayor Stage said he will work on that and provide better communication for those projects.

Mr. Bennett asked Ms. Conrad, Dir. of Parks & Rec., about the estimates for Windsor Park. She explained that they did have estimates for over \$2. million, but scaled back the project.

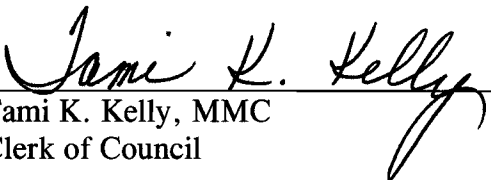
Council Members shared their concerns over not having information on plans before appropriating money for the capital improvement projects, but also understands the need to do so to get the projects underway.

Mr. Boso reviewed each Project and he and Mr. Keller explained the amounts for each, which includes money for bidding; engineering; and inspections.

Ms. Albright reiterated her opposition to removing Capital Improvements all together. She said she feels it handcuffs the Administration on a whole and believes there is a good track record for being fiscal responsible.

6. Mr. Berry asked about the position funded in the Finance Department. Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, explained that this is for the Assistant Finance Director position that is in Chapter 161. He said the duties are being considered to possibly include cross-training that person on Human Resource duties as well.
7. There being no additional questions or comments, President Berry adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 7:20 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President