

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

December 09, 2019

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Robinette at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Roby Schottke

Christine Houk

Steve Robinette

Ted Berry

Mr. Robinette, recognized Ms. Houk, Chairman of Finance, for discussion under said Committee.

1. Ms. Houk asked the Mayor for an overview of the Budget.

The Mayor explained that the City went to market to finance \$5,000,000 for Beulah Park. The City received an interest rate of 2.213% - which is an incredible rate and makes a statement of how we are perceived by the financial industry. He said we are still an income tax driven community. He said that operating expenses will have two major key changes:

1. Cash expenses for FOP contract to pay retroactive after contract is approved.
2. There will be 27 pays this year.

He explained that we judge our operating expenses against our income taxes, which was put in place so there would be some type of benchmark to monitor ourselves. He said most other expenses are put in a "stove pipe" and can pay for themselves. He said they also look at how much is carried over, and the aim is to carry over about 25% of the operating expenses in cash. He said that the Charter only requires that Council receive an Appropriation Ordinance, but he likes to provide the background and more detailed information.

Ms. Houk said Council has had Capital Improvement discussions and Goal Setting discussions and wants to keep the focus of this meeting on big picture items like personnel changes, major purchases, and new program/initiatives. Ms. Houk asked for insight on why in the 2019 budget, there were Objectives included but none for 2020. The Mayor explained that he went over them earlier and didn't put them in the book. They are the seven (7) items he already discussed with Council.

Mr. Schottke said we knew the 27 pays were coming up and asked why we didn't account for it in the general operating budget. Mr. Turner, Director of Finance, explained that this was purely a timing issue. He said it is always accounted for on an accrual basis and it's just a cash issue.

Council reviewed each Fund with the Department Head and the following comments were made:

Police: Mr. Vedra, Dir. of Safety, explained that this budget show a request for more vehicles than normal. He said there has been a model change, which will require three vehicles to be completely outfitted rather than using equipment from the outgoing vehicle. While there is no new personnel, he noted that they will be training one officer to become a Canine officer and rotating the Canine's every two years.

Mayor's Court: Mr. Vedra stated that new computers are being requested in another part of the budget. This Fund also shows the addition of two part-time staff members, which is actually two people working the equivalent of one (1) part-time position.

Building Div.: Mr. Vedra stated that this division is anticipating two (2) retirements next year; one (1) part-time inspector is going full-time; and they have added funds to get started on accreditation, which they hope to achieve in 2021.

Lands & Buildings: This Fund shows money for two (2) additional vehicles and some equipment replacements.

Parks and Recreation: Ms. Conrad, Dir. of Parks & Rec., stated that there is an amount of \$81,000.00 for an updated Master Plan – Park Planning. She said this is necessary to maintain their Accreditation; money for two (2) new Senior Center busses – however, they are discussing the possibility of expanding the COTA first/last mile program to the entire City for seniors (an all residents) to utilize instead of buying new busses. Mr. Schottke asked if the \$146,000.00 included personnel and Ms. Conrad said no. Mayor Stage noted that two (2) of the 2020 Objectives were to obtain Platinum Status and the complete Beulah Park. These items are addressed in this Fund and pointed out the electric vehicle.

Information Systems: Mr. Hurley, IS Dir., stated that two (2) staff members will be participating in the tuition reimbursement program and monies are shown in this Fund. He noted that the Fiber Optic System is currently deficient, but they are looking at opportunities to change that significantly. Mayor Stage noted that the city's cost of using the system is not factored in, which attributes to the deficit.

** Editor's Note – Mr. Davis arrived at 6:53 p.m.*

Business & Community Relations: Mr. Walters said they have one (1) part-time person going to full-time.

Development: Mr. Robinette asked if additional monies need to be added for Professional Services in order to get the Zoning Code review completed. Mr. Rauch, Dir. of Dev., said no. This project just takes time and no one knows the community as well as Staff.

Street Maintenance: Ms. Fitzpatrick, Dir. of Service, reported that there are two (2) new full-time positions and two (2) pick-up truck upgrades.

General Recreation: Mr. Schottke said there was conversation about Pickle Ball Courts and asked about monies for those. Ms. Conrad said that would be a Capital Improvement item.

Community Development: Ms. Conrad said there is an additional \$27,000.00 for rebuilding the garage at Gantz Park and the 4th of July concert; she noted that they are looking at the Branding effort again next year. Mayor Stage commented that this is a self-funded account, through the hotel/motel tax, earmarked for community events. He said it is watched very closely. Mr. Berry said he would like to add \$50,000.00 for the Chamber of Commerce and have it set up in the same way as the Town Center Inc. Agreement. Mayor Stage said he has spoken to the Chamber about getting together after the first of the year to put together an Agreement for 2020. Mr. Schottke noted that he believes if something is added to this Budget, then the same amount should be removed from somewhere so the bottom line is not eroded.

Pinnacle TIF: Mr. Robinette said there was funding for a new park last year that is not in this year's Fund and questioned this since the park has not been constructed. Ms. Conrad said they did complete a plan for a park last year. It was noted that there was push-back from the community on parts of that Plan, so it has been put on hold for now.

Capital Improvements: Mr. Boso, City Admin., passed out a map concerning the Town Center parking. He said they have received agreements from six (6) of the seven (7) property owners. Discussion took place over this project and the timing of it. Mr. Boso said there are many moving parts and they want to

make sure they are enhancing redevelopment rather than detracting from it. He said they are looking at Spring to get started on this project. Mr. Vedra passed out information on the Service Complex. Council reviewed and discussed this plan. Mr. Boso noted that this is a phased in approach, which will allow the City to pay for these improvements over a number of years. To completely move the Service Complex to another location would require a large capital outlay all at one time. This plan allows the Service Complex to grow as the community grows without any loss of service.

Recreation Development: Ms. Conrad stated that this is where Pickle Ball would be. She acknowledged the eight (8) or so people who were present to support having designated space for this sport, rather than sharing the tennis courts. Ms. Conrad explained the three (3) options that have been considered. She said she recommends building 6 – 8 new courts in Fryer Park or Henceroth Park at a cost of \$175,000.00. However, there is not enough money in this Fund, so it would have to be a Capital Improvement project. Council agreed to the new court option. Mr. Berry asked the Administration to consider adding \$175,000.00 in Capital Improvements and reducing the overall budget in other places to accommodate this addition.

Water: Mr. Keller, Consulting Engineer, said they have added a Flushing System line item to this Fund.

2. Ms. Houk asked if there were any other items.

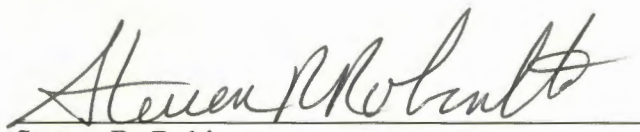
Mr. Robinette asked if there was money in this this proposed budget for starting on a park at the Old Library site. Mr. Boso said a purchase order for \$30,000.00 has already been opened to begin the review and planning for this park.

Mayor Stage said the only other budgetary item was concerning Borrer Road improvements. He said the project is over the estimate and Jackson Township sent them a letter requesting more money. The letter also stated that the Township would be going back to OPWC and the County to request additional funding.

3. After closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Steven R. Robinette
President