

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

December 03, 2013

Special Finance Committee Meeting

The special Finance Committee meeting of Council was called to order by Chairman Bennett, at approximately 6:00 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 began with opening comments.

Mayor Stage reviewed his cover letter with Council. He pointed out that the General Fund budget request is \$2,676,470.00 less than 2013, mostly due to reductions in Capital Improvements. The Operating Expenses are 4.8% greater due to personnel and contract services. He explained that he established a benchmark of using only 100% of income tax as the guide for expenses many years ago. He said when you look at the big picture, we are sitting handsomely overall.

Mr. Davis said he appreciated the Mayor designing a benchmark, especially when we are losing so much money from the State. As he looks at this, he is concerned about the continued operating budget with respect to the income tax revenue. He said it is 107% this year and it was 108% last year. He said we have been fortunate in past years and have a surplus, but he still sees a trend line that doesn't make him feel comfortable. He said he doesn't see anything in our on-going costs that gives him comfort. Mayor Stage said if you look at the actual costs for the last two years versus the budget appropriations, it shows that the percentages were lower. More money was received than was estimated. He said the easiest one to point out is Safety. The variance in operation is in the Safety Dept. Mr. Davis said he would like to see the Administration to reduce the overall budget to 100%, as they see fit. Mayor Stage said he has submitted the Appropriations Ordinance as required by the Charter. He believes it is a fair and equitable budget. It is now in Council's hands to make any changes.

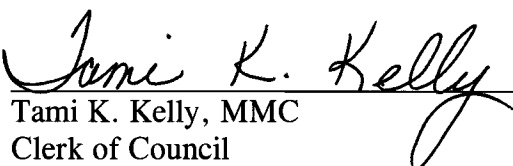
Mr. Berry noted that the \$1,000,000.00 for the Town Center Loan Fund is not shown in the budget. He asked if that will increase the 107% if Council would amend the budget to put it in. Mayor Stage and Mr. Turner said no. The 107% would stay the same.

2. Council moved to the 2014 Budget.

Council and Administration reviewed the Detailed Expenditures for the various Departments under the General Fund. The City Administrator, Finance Director and other Department Directors answered questions from Council.

3. There being no additional questions or comments, President Berry adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 9:10 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President