

**Finance Committee Meeting of Council
City of Richmond Heights
February 15, 2022**

Chairman Ursu called the meeting to order at 8:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Alexander, Nelson, Ursu

Excused: Bell

Motion to excuse Bell- Nelson, Alex; passed 3-0

Motion for approval of minutes from the meeting on January 18, 2022, by Nelson, seconded by Ursu; passed 3-0.

REPORTS:

Mayor Kim Thomas: No report.

Tax Administrator, Tony Miceli: -excused-

Economic Development Director, Brian Gleisser: See New Business discussion.

Interim Finance Director, Tom DiLellio:

- New component is the current month's disbursements and what we pay out on a monthly basis.
- Revenue report- went over the Statement of Cash from Revenue & Expenses.
- Budget ordinance still not ready to put together quite yet. Dept heads working on budgets.
- School will be receiving \$94K from Selman
- Temporary expense budget will have some temporary negative funds.
- AP Checks issued January 2022- list of checks and dates every month.
- Signal Services \$16K check but was reimbursed by insurance company on that one, fire emergency signal.

OLD BUSINESS: -none-

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Motions for a new traffic signal at Brush/Chardon not to exceed \$26,000, to come from the 202 Fund by Ursu, seconded by Alexander; passed 3-0.*
2. *Motion for the authorization of workout equipment purchases for the Fire Dept not to exceed \$23,000 from Rogue by Alexander, seconded by Nelson; passed 3-0.*
3. *Motion for the authorization of workout equipment purchases for the Fire Dept not to exceed \$9K to come from Health & Fitness Equipment by Nelson, seconded by Alexander; passed 3-0. (2 motions for the fire dept equipment)*
4. *Leasing of truck fleet-* Don Kerniskey added 2 more vehicles to fleet- for building dept fire prevention officer and service dept- 12 vehicles total. Looking to move forward on this. Discussed the market value \$154K trade in. Will give the city 12 vehicles (trucks) on one year release program and will get back \$113K for next group of trucks. Not putting out any money initially on this. Will upgrade our fleet. This does not involve the big salt trucks. This differs from a regular lease program. They are leasing to municipalities and are accepting of the dings, scratches and wear and tear. Maintenance all covered by leasing company. Will we ever have ownership? Yes, after 5 years, we can decide to purchase them. Can get out of this at any point. Would be in no worse shape than we are now, should be better.

- Discussion on purchases of trucks in past and repairs year after year. Often spend more on repairs over the years than the cost of the trucks. The upgrades are necessary in this process. A lot of local cities are doing this as well.
Sidewalk Plow has been broken down for 3 weeks now. Mayor Thomas has been getting calls on this from concerned residents and parents whose kids had to walk in street because of snow on sidewalks. Kerniskey said the sidewalks have an ice build up now. Rain coming tomorrow and hoping for ice to melt.
 - Plow trucks causing mess ups on sidewalks and driveways of residents. Kerniskey said that is a problem with the sidewalk plow and often causes snow to fly on people's driveways.
 - In the future, maybe we can ask a local city for use to borrow equipment such as a sidewalk plow. Kerniskey said he is wary of using someone else's equipment such as that because the chances of it breaking or needing repairs is high in that situation.
 - Asked for a list of communities using this leasing of vehicles. Alexander said he is not in favor of this route. There is no doubt the city needs new vehicles, and willing to go out and buy new vehicles. Once you go this route, there is no going back. Argued that the city does not need this many new trucks. Kerniskey said they will be adding employees as well. Alexander said it will cost a fortune to get out of the lease. Mayor Thomas said the trucks being used are 20 years old, should not be on the road and in need. Repairs are done daily. The residents deserve better with their tax paying money.
 - Ursu said we can ask Todd Hunt to prepare legislation on this, but we can have it go back to Service and Rec Committee for more discussion on this before any passage is considered.
 - **MOTION for the legislation to be written up by legal department by Ursu, seconded by Nelson (Alexander-NAY). Did not pass 2-1.**
 - **President Jordan weighed in on this decision with a YAY, possibly making this vote 3-1.**
 - **Either way, if legislation is created, it will be on first reading and there will be more discussion on this in the Service & Rec Committee meeting.**
5. **Lodge-** needs a security system: Kerniskey said he is working on quotes for this. Lentine said he thought there was a security system in the Lodge.
 6. **Service Dept-** also needs a security system, smoke detectors, CO detectors. Reached out to 4 companies on quotes for these things.
 7. **CDL Licenses-** need certification and training classes. Union employees required to have a CDL License. When we go to hire new employees, will need to send them to school for this. Most carpenters, plumbers, technicians will not have a CDL license so we will need to figure this out. \$4,400 per person for class B certificate at Tri-C. Will bring to Council for consideration. Can use similar agreement as Police and Fire depts, whereas the city will pay for training, but they must stay on for a year at least.
 8. **Richmond Hts Land Reutilization Program:** info packet from Brian Gleisser, 516 Trebisky parcel- backs up to property on Caitlin. The city owns this parcel with 90 ft frontage, 487 ft deep. \$29,300 value for sale. \$17K on taxes that the city owes still to pay back county. Still waiting on the plans for the single-family house that will be built. Need to see the plans first before the sale. ARB will need to approve the plans.
No storm sewers at that location. Chris Courtney commented on the grading of the land, which is flat. Buyer should be aware of new utility connections needed. Downspouts out to ditch area. Sum pump to street. It is a buildable area. Gleisser said it was on 1st reading last week, still waiting for the house plans. Will provide updates.
 9. **Electric Aggregation-** per Gleisser, the consultant will send out the RFP proposals. Higher rates than First Energy. Waiting until the rates drop down for now.
 10. **Belle Oaks-** have not resolved the sewer issue. Need to show financial wherewithal...may push back the demolition date from spring to summer. Construction schedules seem to change. Not out

of the ordinary. Does not affect the buyers start dates. Construction set to start Feb 2023. Zoom meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

AUDIENCE: -no comments-

OTHER: On March 1st Nelson announced she will be having the Audit Committee meeting at 6:45pm.

Chairman Ursu adjourned this meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Meeting Minutes taken by Betsy Traben, Clerk of Council