

Finance Committee Meeting of Council City of Richmond Heights February 16, 2021

Chairman Ursu called the meeting to order at 7:56 pm

Roll Call:

Present: Alexander, Nelson, Thomas, Ursu (Nelson was present in zoom but could not respond online)

Council also present: Henry, Lentine, Lewis

Acceptance of Minutes of January 19, 2020- Motion by Thomas to accept the minutes, seconded by Alexander; passed 3-0.

From the Safety Committee:

Motion to authorize \$18500 from the budget for 7 sets of turnout gear for the Fire Dept by Thomas, seconded by Alexander; passed 3-0.

Motion to authorize \$6500 from Crash Course Village for the rope rescue training as part of the Assistance to Firefighters grant, by Ursu, seconded by Alexander; passed 3-0.

REPORTS:

Mayor Roche: Comment as we go along.

Economic Development Director, Brian Gleisser: No report.

Finance Director, Jim Teknipp:

- Adequate positive balances across all fund to start up 2021. \$10,800,000 to start off year (ask Jim), maintaining balance, close to 11 million and will start receiving prop taxes in Feb/March.
- Spent a lot of time working with Dept Heads on budgets. About 80% of budget put into Analytics and want some form or ordinance starting next week for Council meeting. Will speak about Admin and City budget then.
- Payroll Ordinance for non-bargaining people and hope to finish up this week. Want a first reading for next week which he is aiming for.
- Hard copies of PowerPoints tonight from directors. Ursu asked for copies to Council. Teknipp said he will try and get it out as soon as possible in mailboxes and an electronic version. Will doing Screen Share tonight for the presentations.

Tax Administrator, Tony Miceli:

- Collections are at about the same as last year so far.
- YTD info very close to last year, which is a good sign.

AUDIENCE: -no additional comments-

BUDGET WORK SESSION #1

Fire Chief Marc Neumann: (8:05pm)

- Shared Screen for Budget 2021.
- Organization Chart of the Dept- 19 FTE's, including fire chief, 3 PT FF, 6 apparatus, respond to over 2,200 calls annually, or about 6 calls a shift on avg.

- Background- full-service fire dept and EMS organization with fire investing unit, tech rescue, Hazardous material units as well.
- Calls: EMS- 74% and remainder 26.5 are fire service calls.
- Last year, responded to 18 structure fires.
- 2021 Budget: 3 funds- 203 fire service, 232 fire pension and 233 rescue squad funds. Life Force Management provides services for us- billing, records requests, regulations, collections. Collection rate at about 42%, and soft billed for RH residents.
- Revenue- 2,722,449 and expenditure \$3,259,448 estimates totals
- Last year 2020 revenue, \$3,766,899 and projected 2021 \$2,722,449
- COVID-19 Cares Act for 2021—projecting conservatively on govt funds. Will likely receive more funds, but nothing is pending right now. Mayor commented that this year it may be less restrictive on what to allocate it on. Get money directly to the cities with more flexibility.
- GF Transfer- \$1 million in 2020, 2021- \$500,000
- Expenditures: 2020- \$3,227,491 and estimated 2021 is \$3,259,448, with a \$31,957 increase. This covers all 3 of the fire dept funds. Ending the year projected to all be in positive for the funds.
- Budget items 2021: EMS Chase Vehicle \$45,000, Structural FF gear \$42,000 (covers 12 sets and we only need 7 now), Rope Rescue (95% grant) \$44,400, 2 public safety radios \$8,000 (applied to 2 grants)- total \$139,400 (233 and 203 funds come out of)
- Accomplishments over the year: ISO rating 2, Life Education in city, Regional dispatch, Heartsaver CPR courses, Residential smoke detectors, Residential lockbox program, Fire Safety Inspector, EMS transport- continuity of care, revenue enhancement opportunities, \$335,229 collected revenue during 2020, community paramedicine (Phase 1)
- Grants, we were very successful, thanked Jason Bus. AFG operation and training, EMS \$3K grant, Cares/HHS- \$10K awarded, AFG Regional COVID-19 supplemental grant \$4K and received \$67K in grant funding in 2020.
- Goals for 2021- may be participating in regional fire/paramedic exam for civil service, live fire trainings, community outreach/live safety education, SOP implementation/Lexipol (standard operating procedures)- liability reduction.
- Have 5 firefighters that are eligible for retirement, but none have indicated they would be.
- Budget challenges—continued dependence on Gen Fund, \$500K this year, Fire Pension fund 233 Ambulance Billing Fund \$168,000 payment from this fund for pensions; CBA negotiations for 2022, increased healthcare costs 28,000 increase, 5–10-year CIP/rolling stock, facility, trucks getting older and always need maintenance.
- Summary: 233 Rescue Squad Fund--\$45,000 EMS chase vehicle, \$42,000 Structural FF gear, \$168,000 fire pension fund transfer.
- 2021 Beginning Balance \$897,614 and 2021 projected end balance \$853,896.
- Actively seeking revenue enhancement opportunities- grant funding, partnering in regional programs, part-time supplemental staffing.
- Ursu asked about covering empty positions if that happens. About \$13,000 per month per ff.
- Alexander asked about the possibility of retirement for some. With the pay outs for sick time and leaves, where do we look at that? Come out of Payment Stabilization fund, \$445,885 in that fund 110. Teknipp said he is increasing the fund because of retirement possibilities to prepare us.
- Cares Act funding amount—Dr. Pat Ackerman asked for. Chief Neumann said \$656,203 was the amount for the city. Police-- \$147,006 and Fire- \$502,960 and Admin \$6,236 received for 2020.

Police Chief Tom Wetzel: (9:08pm)

- 25 officers (22 ft and 3 pt), 12 aux officers, 13 vehicles (8 are marked cruisers), 1 chief sec, 2 public records clerks, 1 chief. Police station includes a jail facility which can be a 6-hour holding facility.
- Organizational Chart
- Generally, have about 4 officers on the road at once.
- 2020 accomplishments- 2 new part-timers hired, records clerk hired, new aux officer, K9 Bolt received, in house instruction, free trainings, new volunteer chaplain program; recognized by Ohio Assoc of Chiefs of Police in Ohio's Best, community survey 76% excellent, parent survey,

sold over \$48,000 of confiscated and old property on Govdeals, officer Jonathan Ross delivered baby in car; safety legislation passed (cell phone use, anti-vape device, securing firearms); community outreach programs and events, youth/school outreach.

- Capital budget goals- Watchguard wireless video transfer for cruisers software/server \$17,000, body camera/storage (grant) \$16,000, 2 new police cruisers \$155,000 includes upfitting, (none ordered in 2020), in-car video cameras for cruisers \$15,000.
- Professional Standardization- Lexipol, reduce liability for dept and city, increase training and tracking of instruction, officer assigned as a policy writer- can help with reduced costs.
- 2021 Goals- focus on self-actualization opportunities for police, trainings, professional development, host regional training events, social media outreach, seek additional grants, continue to sell old or forfeited items on Govdeals, strategies to reduce crime, crime prevention, intelligence led policing.
- 100 General Fund 2020- personnel costs are most 82%, supplies/materials/ammo 2%, contractual 17%
- Special Revenue Funds- 211---219 (9 funds)
- Proposed Budget \$4,058,294.04
- 2021 Budget assumptions- maintain 3 part time patrolmen, 12 aux unit, maintain county jail services, regional dispatch.
- Ursu asked about adding more part time patrolmen to the force.
- Sheena Levy, resident asked about the surveys. Chief said the community one was done online. The one at the school was done with students there. Not a huge sampling but gave a good window of voices. Sent to every parent in the school system—about 20 responded and 50 residents in the community.
- County Jail—Alexander asked about. Doing well, no complaints.
- Coronavirus Relief Fund \$656,203 was total, and police dept got \$147K

OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Chema meeting: Eloise said they looked at March 3rd but waiting to hear back from him.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next Tuesday will be Admin budget report in COW. Start early? Henry said only if an Executive Session is needed. 7:30pm will probably be the start time, as usual.

Legislation for next week- first reading for Payroll and budget

Audience: -no comments-

Chairman Ursu adjourned this meeting at 9:46pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Betsy Traben, Clerk of Council