

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
June 17, 2019

The June 17, 2019 Ravenna City Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M. by Council President Joe Bica. The following Council members were present: Paul Moskun, Robert Kairis, Amy Michael and Matt Harper. Also attending the meeting were: Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Director of Public Service, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Tim Calfee of 910 Murray Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Greg Francis of 558 Coolman Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio; Deena Tannert of 784 East Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Christina West of 732 Eastland Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio; Larry Silenius of 124 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio and Clifford Soudil of 464 Woodland Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

President Bica said the first item on the agenda is the approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 20, 2019. There being no corrections, additions or changes to the minutes, a motion was made by Mr. Kairis moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion as seconded by Mr. Rainone. **Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

President Bica said Item No. 2 is a request for the approval of an RLF UDAG loan for the Chestnut Commerce Center Transloading site and make necessary appropriations.

Mr. Cecora said this is to make appropriations and enter into the agreement for the loan for a proposed transloading site at Chestnut Street Commerce Center. The total being requested is \$300,000.00. He doesn't have all of the particulars but will get them to the clerk prior to the regular council meeting. They are trying to decide if it should be appropriated now or in two pieces. There isn't enough in the fund balance to appropriate the whole thing but it will be recaptured, probably, by mid-year.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 3 is a request to accept the donation of tennis equipment and instructor manuals from the Northeast Ohio Tennis Association.

Mr. Kairis said this is an equipment donation from the Northeast Ohio Tennis Association. The approximate value of the equipment is \$700.00.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 4 is a request to discuss the collection contract regarding the Ohio Attorney General's office.

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Mr. Cecora said they came out of the last meeting with some questions. There is a 10% charge by the Attorney General's Office and he thought it was the consensus of this body to take it to the next phase, which would be the collection agency phase, not the litigation phase. That was an additional 21%. One of the questions they had was the amount of interest to be added. That is a statutory rate which is 5%. Kent is going with this program and using that same interest amount. It's up to the AG's office to waive any interest so they won't have to reach out to the city on every specific incident. He asked about the 15 years. The individual he spoke with assured him that pretty much everybody is going along with the 15 years. It seems to be standard across the board.

President Bica asked if when he's talking about a third party collection, that is when the Ohio Attorney General's office gets a third party to help them collect a debt?

Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative stating that's how they get put on credit reports because the AG's office doesn't put anything on the credit reports.

President Bica asked if Mr. Cecora knows how long it's held in the AG's office before going to a third party collection agency.

Mr. Cecora said he thinks it's after 120 days. If they go with Step 2, that adds 21 on 10%. Then if they wanted to take it to step 3, which is the litigation phase, that 25% replaces everything. But they are tying it up in court.

Ms. Michael said they discussed not going to the litigation phase with it.

Mr. Cecora said the Ohio AG's office has assured him that all of the costs are passed on. It's not out of the city's pocket. It will be added on to the outstanding liability. The question was, are they going to charge interest; he checked and 5% is the statutory amount. They will go with a third party collection (phase 2). They would give the AG's office the right to negotiate on the city's behalf and it will be a maximum of 15 years. They don't have to stick with 15 years and he doesn't know where that number came from. He's been assured that is pretty much what all of the clients are doing.

President Bica noted that it must be okay with the State Auditors.

Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative.

President Bica asked if, at some point, after going to a third party collection agency, they come back with a recommendation to go to litigation or do they just kick it back, hold it, etc.

Mr. Cecora said that if they don't seek litigation, it's going to be in a state of flux and just sit on the receivables. He thinks they do a quarterly report. He's interested in seeing what gets aged out and how the schedule is provided.

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It was the consensus of those present that the contract be moved forward as laid out by Mr. Cecora.

President Bica said Item No. 5 is a request for an EMS rate review.

Mr. Cecora said they talked about this in committee. He did have a discussion with Chief Cleveland and the rates, as they are currently constructed are fair and competitive for the market. The only question was if they wanted to go up to \$75.00 for the non-emergency transport. It's currently \$50.00.

Chief Cleveland he spoke with Life Force Management and the only time they are collecting on that non-transport is when it goes to a private insurer. Medicaid and Medicare patients as well as uninsured patients get billed directly for it because it's not covered. Any increase they make would most likely go directly to the residents. Last year they received \$2,000.00 for that when \$17,000.00 was billed.

It was the consensus of those present that the EMS rates will stand as they currently are.

Chief Cleveland said that regarding that third party and 21% for the State AG's office. He was of the understanding from his conversations with Life Force that most communities are not doing that third party collection. He spoke with the AG's office on the phone and was left with the impression that the City would get stuck with that 21% bill. There will be costs associated with the collection agency that will have to be paid.

President Bica said he thought that would only be if they are able to collect. He asked Mr. Cecora to verify that information and let them know. He is under the assumption that the collection agency amount, which is the additional 21% would be collected only if they received funds and it would be taken out of those funds.

Mr. Cecora said that he would clarify it.

Chief Cleveland said he doesn't think most communities aren't using the third party collection. It could actually end of costing the City more to recover the money.

President Bica said Item No. 6 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into contracts and appropriate funds for the Hazen Avenue Waterline Project. It's an OPWC project.

Mr. Finney said this authorizes the mayor to enter into a contract and appropriate the funds for the OPWC project. There were four bidders all who were within \$12,000.00 of each other on a \$500,000.00 project. The bids were very tight. A couple of contractors admitted they couldn't start until possibly November or December. They went with the lower bidder, Fioritto and the high bidder which was a company they like to work with but they also said realistically they couldn't start until the end of October or November.

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Mayor Seman said he and Mr. Bowen met with the contractor. These projects going so far into the winter could be nothing but trouble. They are hopeful of getting an earlier start and get it completed.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 7 is a request to appropriate funds for the installation of a siphon drain at Lake Hodgson Dam.

Mr. Moskun said this is for a siphon drain at the dam. It's due to an ODNR request.

Mr. Finney said that the cost is \$38,000.00 but it's much less than buying a pump.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 8 is a request to authorize the mayor to advertise for bids to pave the Wastewater Treatment Plant parking lot and driveway.

Mr. Moskun said this is long overdue. It needs to be done before this fall so the asphalt can set properly. The funds have already been budgeted.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 9 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with Constellation Energy for residential natural gas aggregation.

Ms. Dubinsky said the most residents will pay is \$3.19/mcf. Today the rate is \$3.08. The rate could be lower and the most residents will pay is \$3.19. The current rate being paid is \$3.42. This will be for the delivery period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 10 is a request for the Spring Cleanup Program appropriation

Mr. Cecora said this is just an additional appropriation from the General Fund for the Spring Cleanup. There was \$20,000.00 budgeted in the recycling fund and they need another \$32,300.00 to pay for this endeavor.

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There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 11 is a request to establish a Workers' Compensation internal service fund.

Mr. Cecora said that the auditors came back with the recommendation, much like the healthcare plan, creating an internal service fund for the Workers' Compensation costs. What that basically amounts to is a holding fund where they gather all costs related to Workers' Compensation. There are three components; stop loss claims paid and TPA administrative fee. Right now they are paid all over based on distributions, departments and funds. What they are looking for is a snapshot. This is for the year 2019. It's already built into the 2020 budget. It will function as a clearing account.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

President Bica said Item No. 12 is a request to approve the accounting entries for May, 2019.

Mr. Cecora said fund transfers are solely to cover debt service.

President Bica noted there is an additional item for the agenda and that is to accept J. D. Striping as the best low bidder for the 2019 painting of pavement, marking and striping program and allow the mayor to enter into a contract with J. D. Striping.

Mr. Finney said there were two bids this year. The J. D. Striping was the lowest bidder. J. D. Striping is a local company on Beecher Street.

There being no further discussion, it was decided by those present that legislation would be prepared.

There being no further business before the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

ATTEST:

Council Clerk

Council President