Approved 12/11

Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee November 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 601Pm, by Chairman Josh Peters.

In attendance: Committee member, Joshua Peters, Greg Eades and John Stahl. Councilman Rich Hays, Tax Director Amy March, City Auditor Kenna Combs, City Treasurer Sue Mosier, Safety Service Director Rex Castle, Mayor Pat Closser, Fire Chief Todd Eades, police Chief Glenn Nicol, Law Director Jennifer Hitt, Utilities Director Carolyn , Street Superintendent Bill Long, Sanitary Sewer Director Richard Duncan, BOPU Member Steve Lelonek, Mid Ohio Water & Sewer District Rep Tom Taylor, Madison County Administrator Rob Slane, Council Elect Michael Norman, Council Elect Brent McDaniels, Community Member Brenda Russell.

Approval of Minutes: Auditor Combs advises there were a few spots in the minutes, that she (Clerk Miller) was not able to catch on the recording. Councilman Eades & Peters discussed that Eades took the Ordinance regarding the Collapsed barn to council, Peters took the strength ordinance to council. The corrections will be given to clerk and approved in December. Councilman Stahl 2nd - 3-0 votes to adopt

Auditors Update:

Auditor Combs advises the October books are closed, the revenue for October was $1,625,131.85, and the Expenses were $1,247,251.22. For the year the Overall revenue is $18,277,794.60, and the Expenses are $16,369,833.35. We should be at 83% for the year, and we have spent 79%. Our revenue collected is at 97%.

Councilman Eades: Comparing our revenue to Expenses, we've brought in about $1,900,000 more than we've spent. Also, will you give me a breakdown of the money specifically in the BOPU, or Enterprise, funds. It appears that the BOPU started with $8,537,000 and currently have $7,559,000. *Auditor Combs:* So you would like information on each of their lines? *Eades*: Yes, their totals.

Department Heads Updates:

Tax Director Amy Marsh: In the General Fund we brought in $495,530.00, which is down 4.8% compared to last year. The Fire Fund brought in $251,756.37 which is down 0.91% compared to last year. For the year the General Fund has brought in $4,554,276.53, which is down $26,232.91 or 0.57% compared to last year. The Fire Fund has brought in $2,233,847.29 for the year, which is down $7,695.81 or 0.34% compared to last year.

Councilman Eades: This includes the quarterly payments thru September that were paid in October?

Marsh: Yes

Treasurer Mosier advises she has nothing to report.

Police Chief Nicol has nothing at this time.

Street Superintendent Bill Long has nothing at this time,

Fire Chief Todd Eades has nothing at this time.

Old Business: Council Clerk Salary – *Councilman Eades*: last month I brought this up for a discussion. I understand we have to make decisions, and this does not need to be done at this time.

Chairman Peters: You wanted to move this up to what?

Eades: $12,000

SD Castle: This was discussed at previous Finance meeting. If you are going to look at this you need to ook at the elected positions. They will be at 12 years since the last increase. This salary was adjusted vith Elected officials in the past. She is not elected but that is when this has been taken care of. In past neetings it has been discussed that the low pay may keep people from running. I think that since there vere so many uncontested seats, it proves this. You also need to look at The law Director and Auditor. It ıas been 8 years and will be 12 years since an increase.

Auditor Combs: It's been 4 years since the last increase and will be 8 when the next term ends.

Mayor Closser: Yes she does a lot, but when I was on Council we were able to keep our own minutes, nd we did that until 2 years ago.

Councilman Eades: I can address that. I can either keep the minutes or participate in the meeting. I am aid to participate. I am not paid to keep the minutes. I use a recorder to record the meeting, and then ave to listen to the recording to do the minutes.

Chairman Peters: I recommend that we wait until after the first of the year to work on this.

IEW BUSINESS

oard of Public Utilities Service Contracts – Steve Lelonek – BOPU Member – In 2019 the County started o meet with Mayors, and townships to start a Regional district. Mid Ohio was formed January 1, 2023.)ue to turnover in employees and superintendent, we have contracted with Mid Ohio to operate our vater plants. Two hours ago, we extracted this water (he had a small container of water). We are vaiting on EPA approval to start to produce water. The BOPU cannot continue to operate in the same vay. We either need to hire a someone to run this, and an administrative assistant, which could run 250,000. The BOPU voted to accept a contract with Mid Ohio, that was voted on about 30 minutes go, and we need this to go to council for three readings. If this committee or Council decides not to ıove forward with this, something drastic has to happen.

Mayor Closser – We have had many discussions about this. Originally we wanted to bring sewer lines own and treat the sewage. The County did a study and found that it would cost $199 million to upgrade ıe facility. In a few years we are going to lose the 1.2 million we are currently getting paid from the tate. We have not been able to get people to apply for the Water Department Superintendents osition. This is not "us" giving every thing to Mid Ohio" it is us joining Mid Ohio. We will get two board ıembers, plus the largest end user will get one of the County Seats.

om Taylor – Mid Ohio Water & Sewer District – Discussed the advantages to joining the partnership: The conomy of scale, they currently operate 11 different facilities with 11 employees, as London expands it vould allow London to send sewage north instead of having to expand the current plant. All of our perators are certified in water and sewer. There is not a lot of water in Madison County. We currently erve 17,000 people, including 6,500 at the prisons.

Steve Lelonek – We would enter into a contract effective January 1, 2024, with a 12 month transition period for personnel, assets and liabilities. There is also a $500,000 escrow retainer for Mid Ohio as they are paying for engineering.

Law Director Jennifer Hitt - Look over the contract and call me or send any questions.

Councilman Eades – So these discussions started in 2019? Rob Slane the general fact finding discussion throughout the county started in 2019. Mayor Closser: These discussions started about 6 months ago, when Councilman Peters suggested we join.

Councilman Peters – Can this contract and exhibits be emailed to the rest of the council members?

Councilman Stahl motion to take it to Council. Chairman Peters seconded. All in favor: Stahl, Peters. Opposed: Eades Motion passed 2-1.

Chairman Peters motion to put $500,000 into escrow for Mid ohio, Stahl seconded.

All In favor: Peters, Stahl. Opposed: Eades Motion carries 2-1

2024 Budget – London City Auditor Kenna Combs advises she has supplied up with a budget, however the Fire Department budget needs to be determined. Safety Service Director Castle presented the plan as brought forth by the Administrative team as follows: 1. Reduce current staffing from 10 a day to 9 a day. 2. Request council to place a 0.25% Income tax on the March 19th ballot. Council will need to supplement the Fire Fund as needed, expected to be between $100,000 to $500,000. The Income tax issue must be to the Board of elections by December 19th. 3. If the levy fails, staffing would be reduced to 7 a day, and close the south station.

Councilman Eades – What is the expected carryover from 2023? SSD Castle -This is anticipated to be $600,000.

Councilman Hays – The $600,000 is expected to carry them over to March? SSD Castle – yes.

Councilman Eades – What is the expected carryover from the General Fund? Auditor Combs – we currently have 3.2 million. But that money is also to be used for other projects.

Councilman Eades – What is the bottom line to keep the Fire department fully funded for 2024? SSD Castle – There needs to be a carryover, so about 1 million dollars.

Auditor Combs led a discussion about the overall budget, and answered questions about specific items within the budget. She did advise that the overall health insurance costs actually came down by about 6%.

Councilman Eades moved to increase all department transfers by $200,000 within the 2024 budget, so that the funds can be transferred to the Fire Department Fund. Chairman Peters seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilman Eades moved to take the 2024 Budget to Council, with the emergency clause. Councilman Stahl seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Eades to sponsor.

Chairman Peters moved to take the Income Tax increase for the Fire Department to Council as the same language as the last levy. Councilman Stahl seconded. Peters to Sponsor.

2024 Salaried Employees Pay scale - Auditor Combs - The City is in the last year of contracts with union employees. They received 3%. Historically the salaries for Salaried employees is raised by an equal amount.

Chairman Peters moved to take to Council. Councilman Stahl seconded. Motion passed 3-0

Recreation Department – Auditor Combs - Reappropriation of capital recreation - The money that was appropriated for repairs earlier this year was not all used. There is over 6,000 to be reappropriated for repairs/replacement of sane filters.

Councilman Eades moved to take to Council. Chairman Peters seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Eades to sponsor.

Assess taxes for demolition on Mound Street Property – The fire damaged property on Mound Street was demolished, with a cost of approximately $21,750. Needs to be approved to place an assessment of the property on the property taxes.

Chairman Peters moved to take to Council. Councilman Stahl seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Eades to Sponsor

K9 and cruiser – Police Chief Nicol re: Due to the change in the law that will allow for recreational marijuana, our dog, Ygor, can no longer be used for drug searches. He can still be used for the other things he has been trained for. It was already a consideration to retire Ygor In a year or so, but we need to move on this now. We also need to replace the cruiser, and the time line to get a cruiser could be a year out. If it is approved to purchase a cruiser, we can put an order in, and if one is available early we can purchase it. The cost is expected to be over $70,000 for the cruiser. To purchase a dog, and have it trained is about $12,000. There may be a long waiting list as many departments will be in the same situation.

Chairman Peters moved to take to council to appropriate $85,000 from Capital to purchase a Cruiser and a dog. Councilman Stahl seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Councilman Hays to sponsor.

Next Finance meeting is December 11, 2023 at 6PM.

Meeting adjourned at 840PM.