London City Council FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting October 12, 2022

Attending: Committee Members, John Stahl, Greg Eades. Mayor Pat Closser, Safety Service Director Rex Castle, City Auditor Kenna Combs, Tax Director Amy Marsh, Police Chief Glenn Nicol, Fire Chief Todd Eades, Michael Norman, Brent McDaniels.
Absent: Committee Chairman Josh Peters

Acting Chairman John Stahl called the meeting to order at 6PM. Councilman Eades shared that he had received a text message from Josh Peters late afternoon that he was not feeling well, and would not be able to attend.

Auditor's Update City Auditor Kenna Combs advised that the September books have been closed.

Overall Revenue for the month: $1,424,751 For the year: $16,580,466.28

Overall Expenses for the month: $1,294,147 For the Year: $13,577,905

She feels that most of the accounts are right where they should be at 75% of spent. She will address the Police and Fire Departments when those come up in new business.

Old Business None

New Business: Salaried Employees pay scale for 2023 Kenna Combs advises that the pay scale for non union, salaried, employees should be increased in an amount equal to what the Unions received. This is usually about a 3% increase, but the Unions are getting 2.5% in 2023. She recommends that this be taken to Council for approval.

Motion by John Stahl to take to Council. Second by Greg Eades. Motion passed 2-0

Fire Department Current Year Expenses: Kenna Combs advises that she has been keeping an ete on the accounts for the Fire Department, and there will need to be adjustments made so the accounts have enough funds in them. There should be enough money n the Fire department fund to cover the increases, the money just needs to be appropriated to the right account. It is also the recommendation that the ARP funds that are still in the account be used to pay for salaries for the Fire Department. The actual need for the Fire Department salaries for the remainder of the year is $195,000. Using the ARP funds of $145,000 will lessen the amount needed. The Fire Pensions line needs to have the appropriation increased

The recommendations are: Gas & Oil Increase by $7,000

Utilities Increase by $11,000

Maintenance of Vehicles Increase by $15,000

Professional Services Increase by $15,000

Salaries Increase by $50,000

Fire Pensions Increase by $75,000

John Stahl moved to take all of the recommended increases, and Using the ARP funds for Fire Salaries to Council, each will have the emergency clause. Greg Eades seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Police Department current year expenses: Kenna Combs has also reviewed the accounts for the Police Department, and there is a need to increase appropriations so the accounts have enough money in them. These appropriations will be made from the General Fund, with the exception of the Police Pensions, which has funds but the appropriation needs to be increased.

The recommendations are:

Gas & Oil Increase by $15,000

Miscellaneous Increase by $40,000

Maintenance of vehicles Increase by $5,000

Pensions Increase by $20,000

John Stahl moved to take all of the recommended increases to Council, and each will have the Emergency clause. Greg Eades seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Greg Eades asked if she could forsee any further increases to these accounts, or the other Departments for the remainder of the year. Kenna Combs advised she has reviewed all of the accounts, and feels the Street and Rec funds should be ok.

Department Heads reports

Tax Department- Amy Marsh advises that the General Fund brought in $475,234 for the month, which is an increase of $86,144 as compared to September 2021. The Fire fund brought in $234,638, which is an increase of $45,604 from last year. Overall, the General fund is up 10.14%, and the Fire Fund is up 17.12% as compared to 2021.

Administration – SSD Rex Castle advises that there is a new Code enforcement officer, who will now work 20 hours a week. After working through 25 applicants, and interviewing 3, Steve Hume was hired by the West Jefferson Building and Zoning Department, and will be assigned to London. Hume was the Safety Service director for many years for Mayor David Eades. Rex also advised that the administration is working on the budgets and will present those at the next meeting.

Mayor Closser advised he would like to join the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). The City used to be in MORPC, but then joined the Mid Ohio Development Exchange. Closser feels that MORPC will serve the City's needs better.

Motion by John Stahl to take to Council. Second by Greg Eades. Motion carried 2-0

Audience Concerns: Brent McDaniels would like to have the 0.5% Tax credit reinstated, and would like someone from the Finance committee to sponsor it. Rex Castle advised Brent that if the Tax Credit is reinstituted the Fire Department would lose $450,000, and they are already going to be in a deficit. Mayor Closser asked where else could we get the money? McDaniels stated there could be a savings if the BOPU services were privatized. Mayor Closser explained that those funds could not be used for the Fire department, as the BOPU funds can only be used for BOPU expenses.

Next meeting November 9th at 6PM.

Meeting adjourned at 709PM.

Approved 3-0
11-9-22