Personnel, Budget and Finance Committee Agenda
October 13, 2021

City Hall Conference Room
20 S. Walnut Street
London, Ohio

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2021

Auditor's Update

- September books are closed

Old Business

New Business

- 2022 Budget
- Sanctuary City for the Unborn

Department Head Updates

Schedule November Meeting

Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee

October 13, 2021

20 S. Walnut Street

Minutes

Committee members present: Brenda Russell, Carla Blazier and Josh Peters
City representatives present: Mayor, Patrick Closser; Safety Service Director, Rex Castle; Auditor, Kenna Combs; Treasurer, Sue Mosier; Tax Director, Amy Marsh; Police Chief, Glenn Nicol; Street Superintendent, Bill Long; Executive Assistant, Amy Rees; Councilman, Andy Hitt; Councilman, Anthony Smith and Council President, Henry Comer
Community members present: Steve Miller, Michael Norman, Sierra Dobbs-Brown, Emma McElderry, Mason Hickman

The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm.

The minutes of the September 13, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

AUDITOR'S UPDATE

- September finances are closed.
- The office is running smoothly
- The Civil Service Commission's Medicare budget line needs additional funds. Mr. Peters moved to transfer $5 form the Civil Service office supply fund to the Medicare fund. Mrs. Russell seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

2022 Budget

- Mr. Castle explained that the City is still in union contract negotiations.
- Budget lines will be adjusted and revenue projections increased. The final budget will be presented to City Council at their November 4, 2021 meeting.
- Mayor Closser stated that City Council must ratify the Police Department's union contract at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

Tax Director, Amy Marsh

- The city received tax revenues of $389,090.04 in September; a 12% increase compared to September, 2020. The city revenues have increased 14% for the year, compared to 2020.
- The Fire/EMS Department received tax revenues of $189,033.57 in September; a 30% increase compared to September 2020. The Department revenues have increased 23% for the year, compared to 2020.
- Taking 2 additional individuals to small claims court for unpaid taxes
- Filing extension expired October 4, 2021

Street Superintendent, Bill Long

- Mr. Long requested $120,000 to purchase a dump truck with a plow. Several options are available and he is waiting for quotes. Mrs. Blazier moved to appropriate $120,000 from the Capital Fund to purchase a dump truck and plow. Mr. Peters seconded the motion.
- When the Sheffield development was complete, the final layer of asphalt was never installed on Oxley Drive and Sheffield Boulevard. The company that built the development is now out of business. The city will have to incur the cost of completing the project.
- School Street has deteriorated and is in need of attention soon.

Police Chief, Glenn Nicol

- Once purchased, it takes approximately a year to take possession of a police cruiser. Chief Nicol requested $55,000 to purchase a new cruiser. Mr. Peters moved to appropriate $55,000 from the Capital Fund to purchase a new police cruiser. Mrs. Blazier seconded the motion. Mr. Peters will sponsor the legislation for City Council consideration.
- The recently purchased fingerprint scanner is now in use.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 207-21

- Mr. Smith stated that there was no evidence that the passage of this legislation will negatively impact the City of London. He said that the ACLU has sued seven cities that have passed this ordinance and eventually withdrew their cases. He has amended the legislation to strengthen it and is requesting that it be approved and sent back to City Council for a vote.
- Mr. Comer stated that going against our City Law Director's legal opinion could cause a loss of insurance coverage. He also noted that most of the cities in Texas that have passed this legislation have populations that are very small.
- Mr. Castle stated that it could impact businesses and the local economy.
- Mr. Smith said that a law firm located in Texas, Mitchell Law, has volunteered to represent the city in future law suits if the need arises. Mr. Smith also stated that the law firm would be able to practice law in Ohio. Mr. Hitt asked who would pay the fees and damages if the city were to lose a case. (No answer was given.)
- Mrs. Blazier stated that any law firm representing the city should work with our Law Director. Mrs. Russell agreed and added that the Law Director was elected to represent the city and that she should be the one to do so. Mr. Smith stated that Mitchell Law has more expertise on this subject than our Law Director.
- Mrs. Mosier asked about the background of Mitchell Law and who they have represented in the past. (No answer was given.)
- Mrs. Blazier stated that more research is needed in order to make an informed decision but the legislation should eventually be sent back to Council for a vote.
- Michael Norman stated that he contacted the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Bar Association and that John Mitchell is not licensed to practice law in Ohio. He also asked who would litigate all of the potential smaller, individual cases regarding this legislation. (No answer was given.)
- Sierra Dobbs-Brown stated that this legislation has impacted the City of Lebanon negatively and Councilors have stepped down from their positions. She urged the committee to understand the relationships that Councilors have with the community and local businesses and to consider the potential loss if they were to quit.
- Mrs. Blazier moved to table the legislation to allow time for further review. Mr. Peters seconded the motion.

The next Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee meeting will take place on November 8, 2021 at 4:30pm at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:14pm.

Brenda Russell

Brenda Russell, Chairman

Respectfully submitted by Amy Rees