Personnel & Finance Committee

October 26, 2020

Present: Committee Members Clausen, Baltzell, and Sovinski; Council Members Buxton, Lochtefeld, Scott, and Fleck; Mayor Hazel; Auditor Strawn; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Law Director Moore; Police Chief Wale; Judge Speelman; Court Clerk Sara Bruggeman; and Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard.

Committee Chairman Clausen called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm for review of the 2021 Budget.

Mayor Hazel explained there are a couple roles to be added to the strength Ordinance.

Judge Speelman stated court security and a probation officer was talked about last year. They are requesting to add an additional bailiff. They currently have one bailiff that also acts as a probation officer. The bailiff is doing necessary services; therefore, he is out of the office a lot. With his absence, there is no security in the court. A quote was obtained for $40,000 for a security system. A grant may be available in December, but if not, there is money available in the Special Projects Fund. Auditor Strawn reported that fund currently has $290,000. Last year the court had $375,000 in expenses, and $421,000 revenue in the General Fund. The special funds cannot fund any personnel.

CM Sovinski recommended the extra personnel expense be funded in the budget. Mayor Hazel suggested the strength ordinance be revised before funding the position.

Judge Speelman further explained that she talked to Angela Nickell from the county child support office. Angela is looking at getting the City costs reimbursed for child support cases handled through municipal court.

Judge Speelman is also requesting a pay raise for the Court Clerk, Sara Bruggeman. CM Sovinski stated the position would need to be revised in the Strength Ordinance and job description. Per ORC, the Judge can set the clerk’s pay as long as revenue exceeds expenses. She would like the description to state that the salary is to be set by the Judge.

Mayor Hazel explained the other needed position in the strength ordinance is an assistant superintendent for the electric distribution department.

The 2021 budget requests were then reviewed. Director Hitchcock explained the major request increases. The total General Fund requests are at $7,190,541, which is lower than previous years because of Covid. Total City and Utilities Funds requests are $44,981,604, which is $1.6 million under estimated revenue.

The total debt in 2012 was $23 million, which has been shaved down to $9.4 million.

Police Chief Wale reviewed his 2021 capital expense requests. The Police Department’s total capital requests is $181,000.00, which includes five computer replacements, two MARCS mobile radios, marksman rifle, thirteen shotguns, replacement of two marked patrol cars, two ballistic shields and four in-car camera replacements.

A Personnel & Finance Committee was scheduled for November 9, 2020 at 5:30 pm for continued review of the 2021 Budget.

Chairman Clausen adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council