

City of Aurora, Ohio
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2018

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 26, 2018 for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chairman John Kudley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Reva Barner
 Kathi Grandillo
 Harold Hatridge
 George Horvat
 Dennis Kovach
 John Kudley, Jr.
 Amy McDougald
 James Vaca
 Scott Wolf

Also Present: Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor
 Tim Clymer, Finance Director
 Dean DePiero, Law Director
 Kris Allen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
 Denis Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building
 Harry Stark, Director of Public Services
 Laura Holman, Director of Parks and Recreation
 Karen Aldredge, Chief of Staff
 David Frisbee, Assistant Director of Public Services
 Jack Burge, Director of Economic and Entrepreneurial Development
 David Barnes, Fire Chief
 Brian Byard, Police Chief
 Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council
 April Secura, Deputy Clerk of Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Approval of the February 12, 2018, Meeting minutes

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on an 8-0-1 roll call vote. Mr. Horvat abstained.

AYES: Barner, Grandillo, Hatridge, Kovach, Kudley, McDougald, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Horvat

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(See attached)

MOTION: To accept the Finance Director's Report

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS**Employees Generally**

Ms. Aldredge said there are two new employees included on the Employees Generally. She said the first one is to replace Ms. Madeleine Marazzi, the Administrative Assistant in the Parks and Recreation Department who is retiring as of the 28th of February. Ms. Aldredge provided Ms. Marazzi's replacement's employment history. She said there were 35 applicants for the position; ten were interviewed and all of them were residents of Aurora. Ms. Aldredge said the second position is replacing Ms. Patricia Harrington the Senior Program Coordinator who will also retire on the 28th. She said replacing her is Ms. Colleen Martin; it is believed she will be able to step right in with her wealth of knowledge with event planning and coordination with her previous experience in Aurora and also with her previous experience with the Village of Reminderville.

Mr. Kudley stated that at the agenda meeting this morning the \$23.00 for Ms. Martin was \$21.00. He asked what prompted the change for Ms. Martin.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said they looked at what the city was paying to the other two part-time positions in the Parks and Recreation Department, along with her experience in the department and there was at least one Council person expressing concern about the fact that she was not fulltime. She said she is not ready to make the position fulltime so it was decided to make it simple and move her to \$23.00 as a compromise and in light of the experience she has with the city.

Mr. Kudley stated he was one of the Council people that wanted it to be moved from \$21.00 to \$23.00 and there were a couple of others on board with him. He said one of the things brought forward in the budget was that we were going to raise Ms. Harrington to \$23.00 because we had Ms. Gerber at \$23.00 and those two positions should be at the same rate. He said to initially propose \$21.00 was an insult to the individual who is coming into that position based upon her experience. He said he thinks something dramatically happened between this morning's meeting and the Mayor bringing this here and saying there had been an evaluation on the administration's part to recommend her at this and he questions just how it got here.

Mayor Womer Benjamin stated she did not know Mr. Kudley was one of the people who were involved. She said she knew Mr. Vaca has asked about having her fulltime and she did not think it was an insult to anyone. She said Ms. Martin accepted the offer at \$21.00 and as they evaluated the circumstances she feels they made the best move and I think it is fair to Ms. Martin.

Mr. Kudley said thank you for the explanation but he sees a different explanation for that.

Mr. Kovach asked the length of the probationary period.

Ms. Aldredge replied it is one year per the union contract.

Mr. Kovach asked Ms. Aldredge if she is now going back to her regular pay since we have a Service Director.

Ms. Aldredge said yes, she notified Ms. Lewandowski on Friday to take care of that effective today.

Ms. McDougald said she sorry to see Ms. Harrington to go. She said she loves Ms. Martin and knows she will do a fantastic job. She asked if asked if Ms. Aldredge is looking for a person to fill in on the other jobs Ms. Martin was doing.

Ms. Aldredge said Ms. Martin was filling in as the Public Services secretary and they are waiting for Mr. Stark to spend a little time in the department and access his needs. Ms. Martin will not be doing both roles.

Mr. Kudley stated for clarification Ms. Martin will be the Deputy Clerk on a contractual basis and it will be coming forward to Council.

Mr. DePiero said it will be the city's best interest to have her slotted in one part-time position. He said should she fill in it will be on a contractual basis; should it be long term, he recommends looking in another direction to be in accordance with the ACA.

Mr. Vaca said one time there was an individual that had two part-time positions with the city. He said she worked half a day at the Fire Department and half a day at the Police Department. He said he recalls that Ms. Harrington worked more than 29 hours a week. Mr. Vaca asked if there is any indication the position will be made fulltime as there are a lot of seniors that love the program and he would like to see it expanded.

Mayor Womer Benjamin stated the program has become increasingly important to the city thanks to Ms. Harrington. She said she is sensitive to Council's concerns about adding to head count and consequentially has not. She said she talked to Ms. Holman about monitoring the program and to make a recommendation at the end of the year in time for the next budget cycle.

Mr. DePiero said he does not know about the individual working two part-time jobs. He said if it were the case now he would advise against it. He said it would require the city to pay healthcare for that individual.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Appropriation of Funds – Fire Department

Chief Barnes said the appropriation reflects grant funds they are going to receive from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Comp. He said the grant is for barrier hoods that prevent carcinogens from going through and getting to the face and neck area.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for first reading

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Permission to Auction off Surplus Equipment – Police Department

Chief Byard he is requesting permission to auction old portable radios that are being replaced.

Mr. Vaca asked if anyone can bid on the radios. Chief Byard said yes. Mr. Vaca asked if that is a good idea. Chief Byard said this type of radios can be purchased anywhere. He said they will be wiped clean of any information.

Ms. Barner asked what will be done with the funds received for them. Chief Byard said they will go back into the General Fund.

Mr. Hatridge asked what they are worth. Chief Byard said approximately \$2,000.00.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for first reading

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Contract with GPD Group – Parks and Recreation

Ms. Holman asked for approval to enter into a contract with GPD group to provide civil engineering and landscape architecture design services for the Hartman Farms Project. She said included is 4 ballfields, 2 soccer fields and parking lots at a cost of \$49,850.00.

Mr. Vaca said it seems to him this is the third time around the city is doing the parking lot.

Ms. Holman said this proposal includes bringing all the plans together so the remaining construction can be done on the project. She said there is one parking lot in and there were engineering services done for an additional parking lot to find out about the construction information to conclude the second parking lot .

Mr. Vaca asked if this is a third parking lot or is the second one being revised.

Ms. Holman said there is no revision included in the proposal the parking lot was already revised and engineering was done for it. She said this would be for the construction, if we choose do it moving forward. She said the redesign that you approved was the information to construct the parking lot and retention basins.

Mr. Vaca said he will vote no.

Mr. Kudley asked if the city is ready to construct the parking lot. Ms. Holman said the parking lot cannot be constructed without confirmation of the cost which will be included in these services.

Ms. Barner asked if there were any other quotes. Ms. Holman said GPD has done the drawings for the Master Plan and the original grading; this would be to finish and add on top of those designs. She said this brings their work together turning the ballfields into actual playing fields and construction of the retention basins. She said it brings their work together into a workable project.

Mr. Kovach said on the other side of the house a parking lot was dug.

Ms. Holman said last year Council approved the redesign of the parking lot in relationship to other work that had been done in that area. She said it needed to be redesigned and if we want to move forward with putting in the parking lot and retention basins we need to know what the costs are.

Mr. Hatridge stated every time the city needs engineering for a project it is GPD.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said there are multiple engineering firms the city uses. She said GPD has a history with the Hartman Project. She said the phase of the plan that needs to be designed is for 2 more soccer fields, 4 ballfields and a parking area by the ballfields. She said Council approved the redesign of the east parking area last year. She said that did not include some of the finishing items needed. She said it did not complete the drainage basin that is needed between the Arboretum and the parking area. She said they have to get the base costs. She said the estimates are a bit different than what they were originally led to believe.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for consideration

Ms. McDougald moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Contract with American Fireworks Company – Parks and Recreation

Ms. Holman said she asking for approval to enter into a contract with American Fireworks Company to provide the Independence Day fireworks display. She said the amount has been stable at \$17,500. She said they went out for three proposals and they received two back. She said this company has done the work in the past and is familiar with the city's safety protocol and location of where the city is setting of the fireworks.

Ms. Barner said it awesome news that the price has not been inflated.

MOTION: To appear on Council's March 12, 2018 agenda

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. McDougald seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Bus Purchase – Parks & Recreation

Ms. Holman asked for authorization to purchase a new bus for the Senior Program in the amount of \$77,824.00. She said the bus will be built to specification and will take 12–14 weeks to be received.

Mr. Hatridge said he will be so happy to see the new bus built. He said he knows that the old bus broke down several times last year. He said it is very important to take care of the seniors.

Ms. McDougald asked if the bus is the same size as the one the City currently owns. Ms. Holman said it is.

Mr. Vaca asked if the trade-in is included in the cost. Ms. Holman said the \$77,824.00 is after the trade-in.

MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening

Ms. McDougald moved; Ms. McDougald seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Retain Legal Services of Brickler & Eckler, LLP

Mr. DePiero said both firms been used by the city for more complex matters. He said he tries to find firms that have specialties in different areas as needs come in.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for first reading

Ms. McDougald moved; Mr. Vaca seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Retain the Legal Services of McDonald Hopkins, LLC**MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for first reading**

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Agreement with WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the contract was already approved by Council but the legislation only noted one quarterly payment rather than the full amount of the contract which is \$47,216.64 for GIS services. She said it was realized recently, thus they are coming back for ratification.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for consideration

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

Fine Line Communications, Inc. Proposal

Mr. Frank Desimone, Mirifex IT Consultant, said the City currently does not have a fiber line redundancy. He explained the connection all the way to the fire station and said there is no connection from the fire station to City Hall. He said also a line from City Hall to the Police Department is needed because it doesn't support the 10 gigabyte service. Mr. Desimone said this final piece and it will complete the fiber loop.

MOTION: To appear on Council's March 12, 2018 agenda

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Hatridge abstained.

ODOT Payment

Mayor Womer Benjamin said following the repaving of SR43 and SR82 the City received a bill from ODOT for approximately \$49,000.00. She said she did not know where it came from or if it was attributable. She said the Engineering Department conducted some research and concluded we owed the money. She said it had to do with inspections that were done during the paving project.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS**2017 Master Plan**

Mr. Kudley asked for comments and questions on the addendum and edits to the 2017 Master Plan.

Mr. Vaca said he is good with everything; they answered all of the questions and there is nothing left to improve it.

Mayor Womer Benjamin thanked Envision for their hard work.

MOTION: To accept the addendum and edits to the 2017 Master Plan

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. McDougald seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote

MOTION: To recommend the 2017 Master Plan as amended to Council

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION: To adjourn**

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. McDougald seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

John Kudley, Jr., Chairman

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council