

Finance Committee
Monday, April 27, 2020
6:00 p.m., Rotunda and Remote

In attendance: J. Coyne - Chairman, E. Heffinger, P. Rose, and J. Shields. B. Lamb, D. Simpson and J. Hazeltine

Also present: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Keith Dirham, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Kathy Patton, and Chief Kinney.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action

2. 20-085-4/13 (Addendum) - Pandemic Relief for Seniors/At Risk City Residents

Mr. Coyne stated this is an addendum that Councilwoman Hazeltine put together for seniors and at risk city Residents. Jess explained that Cups Café is the nonprofit organization she felt was best to donate city funds to for a total of \$5,000 dispersed in \$2,500 increments and the funds would be used for food, carryout containers, bags and other supplies the organization previously did not budget for. This money will not be used to employ drivers, it will simply be used to pay for the supplies that they need. Currently Cups Café serves 120 meals per day Monday through Friday and 40 on Saturdays because of limited hours. 95 of those are the deliveries for the at risk city residents that we talked about.

Mr. Coyne asked how this would be tracked and Jess stated Tim will track it, he is going to open a separated bank account.

Mr. Coyne stated they also talked about the water bills and that's still on the table and they will look at who would be eligible.

Mr. Rose thanked Jessica Hazeltine for all her work and feels it goes a long way. Mr. Rose asked before the lock down how many meals were being served, and Jess stated she can get that information for him. Paul feels it would help to know how many are COVID related. Paul suggested putting \$2,500 this time and then when those funds get low and it comes time for replenishing, let's review that to see if that is the number for the next time or will it need adjusting.

Mrs. Hazeltine stated she found out from Mr. Van Arsdale that while he does currently serve 120 people per day he told her with additional funding and supplies they would be able to service of upwards of 200 people per day. Their demand is higher than what he can accommodate.

Mr. Shields agrees with \$2,500 first because he has had three groups in the last week ask him, they want to reach out and help somebody as well. He stated he would wait to see what happened with Cups tonight and see if they might want to match or donate. Jim stated there are a lot of other groups out there that want to help and are just looking for some direction on how to help. Cups helps some students with meals also.

Mr. Simpson expressed this was a good idea, and feels what Jess is working towards right now is going to be more palatable to everybody in Medina. We should step up and help where we can. He does still want to work with the water bills.

Bill Lamb stated Jess took the initiative on this. He likes the idea of starting with just \$2,500 and seeing if someone out there would do a match. Mr. Shields moved to approve \$2,500 for Cups Café, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion Passed 7-0.

3. 20-086-4/27 – MCDAC Grant Application – Police Dept.

Chief Kinney stated they are requesting permission to apply for the Medina County Drug Advisory Committee Grant for PY2020 to 2021 for two school resource officers one at the Medina High School and one that splits it's time between two middle schools. Emergency clause requested due to grant time restraints. Requested amount is \$179,398.00. Mr. Shields stated he will abstain from voting due to being employed by the city schools. Mr. Simpson moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Rose. Motion Passed 6-1 (J. Shields abstained).

4. 20-087-4/27 – CHIP Private Owner Rehab – 533 S. Broadway

Mr. Mendel stated this is to amend and increase an approved P.O. for 533 S. Broadway Street from \$33,000 to \$37,524. The emergency clause is requested so they can pay the contractor. Mr. Shields moved to approve with the emergency clause, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

5. 20-088-4/27 – Economic Development TREX Transfer Form – Diner 42

Mrs. Marshall stated she has been having conversations with Bill Adams the owner of Diner 42 and his attorney Kevin Brennan, on the possibility of transferring a D-1, D-2 and D-3 class liquor permit to the City of Medina for their restaurant. They have invested over \$50,000 at the property at 665 Lafayette Rd. fixing it up and added a large deck to the building. Despite their efforts and community outreach since the Covid-19 pandemic, they have experienced a slow decline in sales and are not competitive with the other casual dining restaurants in the area because of not being able to offer their customers the different alcoholic beverages. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

6. 20-089-4/27 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – Litman, Inc. - Engineering

Mr. Patton stated this is for the recently completed South Elmwood Bridge, some grant funds are remaining and they would like to apply it to pay for the installation of two decorative lights one on each side of the bridge. The grant would pick up 63% of the cost and the city would have to pay a little less than \$6,000.

Mr. Rose asked if there were any examples of the lights they were planning to install. Patrick explained they look very similar to the historic downtown lights.

Mr. Coyne asked if they were LED. Patrick stated yes they are LED.

Mr. Simpson asked if there was electric run already there, Patrick stated when they built the bridge they included the internal conduit for the future installation of these lights. The electric service from Ohio Edison will cost about \$900. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

7. 20-090-4/27 – Expenditure Over \$15,000 – Stepmobile – Municipal Court

Matt Esterle from the court stated this is part of the 2020 Remote Technology Grant opportunity presented through the Supreme Court and Chief Justice Maureen O’Conner. This is a special onetime funding opportunity focused on the purchase of the equipment necessary to quickly facilitate remote access for local Ohio courts. The funding opportunity is due to the emergency need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They have the funds now and it won’t cost the City of Medina any money. They were awarded \$28,614.91 through the Supreme Court to purchase 7 lap tops and the case management system to operate that.

Mr. Coyne asked if this is able to be accessed with a smart phone and/or a computer. Matt stated yes both and it will allow them as probation officers to conduct their supervision appointments and to maintain contact with defendants that have been assigned to a period of probation without having to come into an already overcrowded courthouse. It should reduce the foot traffic tremendously reducing the risk of exposure to Covid-19.

Mr. Esterle stated there is a trend to lessen the footprint of probation in our communities. This is huge for those that don’t have driving privileges or don’t have reliable transportation, we can increase our success rates and lower the offenders that we have to violate for technical violations and it should increase overall success through any defendant we have placed on probation.

Paul asked once the grant is depleted who will be responsible for maintaining the software and anything else that was provided by the grant.

Matt stated that once the grant has expired they will inherit about a \$1,800 per year cost and that is for systems maintenance and to continue to provide service. One of the things the grant provided was a remote kiosks.

Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 20-091-4/27 – Budget Amendment

#2020-007 – Accept Donations, Stephensen Foundation & Miracle League

Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Dirham stated this is to accept some donations and to appropriate the money and used to build a restroom facility at the Sam Masi Park. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

9. Courthouse Update

Mayor Hanwell stated they are now at a point where they need to now do what they call value engineering, where we need to get the number both square footage-wise and cost-wise more in the realm of what we’ve been talking about all along. He stated he and Council President discussed setting up a separate meeting with city council along with Judge Werner and Elected Clerk Nancy Abbott from the city’s perspective in the same respect Scott Miller and Commissioner Hutson are doing the same thing with their elected officials at the Common Pleas Court and each of us independently making recommendations back to Gilbane and Brandstetter Carroll as to where we think we can make some adjustments and shrinkage to reduce square footage and bring the cost down.

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John stated he is going to have Council Clerk Kathy Patton send everybody a copy of the email that gives the list of the estimated construction costs and the design of the current footprint of every ones desires. The cost per square foot for renovation was 1/3 less than the cost of new construction, and the unknown is what, if any, impact will the virus have on the cost of construction in the next 12 to 18 months, hopefully it will go down.

There being no further business before the Finance Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

John M. Coyne, Chairman