

Finance Committee
Monday, February 24, 2020
6:00 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room

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

Also present: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Keith Dirham, Patrick Patton, Nino Piccoli, Jonathan Mendel, Kimberly Marshall, Jansen Wehrley, Kathy Patton, Dan Gladish, Chief Painter, Barb Dzur, Tammy Kirby, Pat Walker, Kathie Jones, Tom Jenkins (SPCA) and Bob Finnan.

1. Assignment of Requests for Council Action

2. 20-040-2/24 – 2020 SPCA Contribution Request

Mr. Rose explained he has been working with the SPCA for a number of years now, and the improvements and the level of service just keeps getting better. They've come a long way in keeping things in control with the numbers. Last year the city donated \$8,850.00 and this year Mr. Rose would like to donate about \$10,000.00. Report was corrected and handed out to council with revisions.

Tom Jenkins, The Executive Director of the SPCA was present for questions, he spoke of a rat hoarding situation at a home on West Liberty and feels it has got out of control and Mr. Gladdish will be looking into it.

Council feels the increase is valid considering the service that is provided by the SPCA and realizes if the city had to provide this type of service it would cost a lot more. Mr. Shields moved to approve the donation of \$10,000.00 to the SPCA for 2020, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

3. 20-041-2/24 – Amend Codified Ord. 943.06(l) - Cemetery

Mr. Wehrley stated this request comes as a concern from our cemetery sexton and we would like to limit the tablet height on tombstones at Spring Grove Cemetery. Currently we don't have anything that regulates the height, we only have in our ordinance a regulation of the base size. In the last 15 years or so we have had a handful of stones that have pushed that limit. This poses a problem in our newer sections as we would like to keep a more uniform look as well as improve the safety.

Request is to limit tablet height to 48 inches and that is the piece of stone that is above the base in the cemetery and newer sections moving forward. The Cemetery Commission reviewed this on February 4th and voted unanimously in favor. Request to approve and to establish some consistency as they can inform the monument companies and that get passed onto their customers.

Mr. Simpson feels that a uniform height of the base and the tablet itself is a reasonable request. Mr. Lamb questioned what kind of concerns have they received? Is it from family of people already there because someone else put a bigger stone and now they can't see their grave? Jansen replied they just did a disinterment because of this exact thing. The way the policy is written right now it's entirely discretionary.

Mr. Coyne clarified that it is 48 inches plus 14 inches for base coming to 5 feet and 2 inches from the grass. John stated that he doesn't have a problem with that concept but he does have a problem with purchases already made and now you're telling them that. As long as there is a provision that says that we will purchase your lot back from you if you don't like that rule. He doesn't like that we sell someone a lot and now are changing the rules on them.

Mr. Rose questioned if there will be a notification process that the sexton will use to make sure that anybody who provides a stone to a family that they will know what the rules are.

Jansen stated they have a list of all the vendors that they've worked with and in order to get a monument approved and installed in the cemetery we have to look at it and sign off on it to make sure that it is within our parameters, so there is an approval process.

Mayor Hanwell stated the administration will agree to the provision that we will buy the lot back if there is an issue over monument height. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

4. 20-042-2/24 – Purchase 2020 Ford F250 Truck – Parks Dept.

Jansen Wehrley stated this is to purchase a new truck to be used by the Parks Maintenance Staff. A service body was added to better serve the public and respond to issues at the splashpads and parks so they can include most of the tools needed out in the field on this. They will use carryforward funds to offset that expense. This is being purchased using the CUE purchasing association contract through Montrose Ford. This will replace a 2005 GMC. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

5. 20-043-2/24 – Recommendation to rezone 1088 S. Court – R-3 to C-S

Mr. Mendel stated on February 13th, 2020 the Planning Commission recommended to rezone 1088 S. Court Street from R-3 High Density Urban Residential to C-S Commercial Service. Mr. Rose stated it was a good conversation during the hearing. This was the third time they've come to the city for a rezoning of this.

Mr. Shields stated the last time because it came the Planning Commission had voted it down when it came to council it was a 6-1 vote for the rezoning to pass, this is going to be different this time correct?

Mr. Mendel stated to be consistent with the Planning Commission recommendation if the council voted to approve the rezoning would just take a simple majority.

Mr. Shields stated if council does vote to rezone it, what is the site plan process now, will that come back before Planning Commission?

Mr. Mendel stated the land use that they were proposing is a conditionally permitted use in the C-S zoning district and would go through conditional zoning certificate review with the Planning Commission, which should also be site planning review. Two actions can be reviewed for a specific site plan at that time and that would have to occur after the rezoning is effective.

Mr. Simpson asked if there were residents there represented at the Planning Commission meeting and are they in favor of the rezone. Mr. Rose stated yes, some were there and they are not in favor of the rezone. Mr. Shields stated and their biggest concern was the traffic it will

bring.

Mr. Rose stated to address the traffic concerns, when it comes time for the site plan review he will fight for a right turn in and right turn out only no left turn in or out at all.

Mr. Simpson stated he knows the Mayor put a request in to have a traffic study done. Mayor Hanwell responded, saying the Medina County Commissioners wrote a letter, Montville Township wrote a letter, and he himself wrote a letter because they'd been hearing of all the issues from Sturbridge to Highpoint Drive as well and they all met with ODOT, the director, deputy director of the Ashland Post. He stated he doesn't want that letter to be misconstrued in saying that the zoning should not take place, his point of the letter was, as the Public Safety Director for the City of Medina which provides fire, EMS service and police, it's not safe to have public safety officers on the sides of the road or on one lane of the road and trying to maintain two lanes of traffic, that the volume of traffic is justifiable to create a wider road with at least a dedicated left turn lane, if not something more than that. The Commissioners and Montville were more about the inhibition. Some ODOT regulations were causing for redevelopment along this corridor even outside of the City by saying people had to put in a dedicated left turn lane or right turn lane and the cost of that verses the cost of the project that they were doing sometimes exceeded the franchise fees of the redevelopment and the folks simply walked away from it.

Mr. Coyne stated the public hearing is scheduled on April 13th.

6. 20-044-2/24 – Budget Amendment

#2020-002 – Municipal Court Funding – CMAR Courthouse Project

Mr. Dirham asked to combine this with item #8. Keith stated this is the budget amendment to pay for it. Mr. Coyne stated as far as how this is going to mesh together with the county and city portion of it - reviewing it as one project, we want to make sure the efficiencies are obtained and combined uses of space to make it financially advantageous for the city.

Mr. Huber stated you will have to amend Ord. 98-19 if you need to expand the amount of money that was authorized in that ordinance. Greg stated not to pass this ordinance with an emergency clause. Mr. Huber needs the council to know that in his department they discussed as a law department, they can't function located where they are here in city hall with the idea of marching two blocks up to the court because they have 20 trips or more to that court in order to run their operation every day.

Mr. Lamb feels the meetings with the commissioners should be held at a time when the public can attend like in the evenings after work not at 12 p.m. Having it a time when people can't come sends a message of total disregard for public input and if that is your agenda then that's just wrong.

Mr. Simpson wants to know if it is going to be a deal breaker if they say they aren't going to hold every meeting in the evenings.

Mr. Coyne feels if they can't hold meetings in the evening, the city should hold their own, but to say that we aren't going to do the project because they can't meet at a certain time he doesn't think that is feasible or logical to do that. We are trying to reach a bigger goal here which is

better service to the community, to the residents, and the legal community. We are just trying to make it more convenient for everybody involved.

Mr. Lamb stated he doesn't want it to be a deal breaker either, but this is a big project and it has a huge impact on not just the city but the whole county, if there is to be a partnership and they can't schedule a meeting 6 hours later than when you have it scheduled, who are the ones looking at creating a deal breaker, how hard is it to change a schedule time of a meeting to an evening, because we do it all the time.

Mrs. Hazeltine suggested when the mayor meets with the commissioners that he ask if they can have some meetings in the evening and come back to us and let us know what they say about that. Jess agreed that the noon time meetings are not convenient for most people.

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

7. 20-045-2/24 – Grant Application Request – Drop Off Recycling Project

Mr. Piccoli stated this is for a front loader for the Sanitation Department. This is the first time we are applying for an OEPA Grant. It is for the use of recyclable materials such as cardboard, and the brush route. This grant will pay \$100,000.00 leaving the city to pay the remainder of \$186,000.00 for a front loader truck. Mr. Coyne asked how long before we find out if approved for the grant and Mr. Piccoli stated within a couple of weeks. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

8. 20-022-1/27 – CMAR Fees – Combined Court Project (Amend Ord. 98-19)

Mr. Shields moved to amend Ord. 98-19 to increase it by \$38,000.00, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

9. 20-046-2/24 – Grant Application – AFG (Assistance to Firefighter Grant)

Chief Painter stated this grant request is for replacement of their breathing air tanks and total cost of the grant is for \$443,467.00 and there is 10% on the city's end. This will replace all their units, spare tanks and face pieces throughout the whole system. Mr. Coyne stated for the 10% the Fire Department has carryforward in their budget. Mr. Shields moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passed 7-0.

There being no further business before the Finance Committee, meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

John M. Coyne, Chairman