



City of Powell Finance Committee

MINUTES September 13, 2016

Attendees:

Tom Counts, Jane Van Fossen, Jim Hrivnak, Dan Swartwout, Brendan Newcomb, Frank Bertone, Steve Lutz, Jessica Marquez, Debra Miller and Chris Huber.

Approval of minutes

Minutes were approved with the one change of adding Frank Bertone to the attendees.

Financial Reports for August 2016

Ms. Miller pointed out on the Executive Report that the City's revenue for the year was exceeding its expenditures. She mentioned that it wouldn't reflect that once the advance done in September was showing – because advances distort the ending balances. Ms. Miller also pointed out that income tax collections continue to be higher than the previous years.

Mr. Newcomb had a couple questions – he was confused about the statement in the Finance Director's Report under TIF about "collected are first installment in February" versus the statement "two main installments (March and April)". Ms. Miller stated she was trying to say that for some reason this year the City received the March payment in February. Next, Mr. Newcomb asked about the proceeds from the note and matching the advance return. Ms. Miller stated that the City didn't issue the entire amount needed in the note so that money wasn't sitting idle.

Liberty & Seldom Seen Grant Request

Mr. Huber, City Engineer, reviewed the two infrastructure proposals for the Liberty and Seldom Seen intersection. Page 1 – shows the signalization proposal at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. Page 2 – shows the round-a-bout proposal at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million; the higher cost is due to the purchase of right-of-ways.

The County is proposing that they and the City share the cost of the project – 50/50. The exception would be the right-of-ways costs would be exclusively the entity over that parcel(s).

The committee discussed the various proposals including the Ashmoore subdivision entrance that would only include turn lanes with signalization and the church driveway that would have to be relocated for a round-a-bout.

Mr. Huber stated that Delaware County wanted to proceed with the project regardless of whether or not a grant is received. Therefore, the City needs to state which proposal is their

choice and commit to their share of the funding. It is projected that the City's share of cost would be \$600,000 if a grant was received and \$900,000 without a grant.

The committee asked Ms. Miller how the City would be paying and she stated that the only funding available was the Street Maintenance Fund – which would mean that the City wouldn't have a street program one year – or Downtown TIF if it was found to assist the downtown area and dollars were available.

The committee after discussion wasn't in favor of committing to the project without a better source of funding so they asked Mr. Huber to ask if they could only commit to the engineering part. They also let Mr. Huber know that they preferred the signalization proposal.

Mr. Huber let the committee know the timeline for construction was estimated to be in 2018 with the remainder of this year and 2017 for engineering and grant application.

Ohio Checkbook

Mr. Lutz gave the introduction to this topic and the packet handout. Ms. Miller and Ms. Marquez stated that there wasn't any benefit for the City or its staff to participate therefore it was up to the committee to decide if they wanted staff to do this for the residents.

The committee discussed what the program did and didn't do for transparency. The committee was split on whether or not the program was worth the effort. Questions that came up were (a) what it takes to up-date (b) cost for the government and (c) number of cities in the program. Mr. Lutz mentioned that Bexley was looking at a program with OpenGov at a cost of \$5500 a year.

Ms. Marquez stated that she would find out the cost and what it takes to up-date and Ms. Miller stated she would look at getting a presentation later this year to early January.

Electronic Packets for City Council

Ms. Miller quickly reviewed the paperwork prepared by Mr. Kambo on the cost of this program and any cost savings. The committee was surprised that the costs met or exceeded the savings of the program. The committee discussed whether or not this should be mandated or a voluntary program. The committee had a variety of opinions but the consensus was that for the cost they weren't interested in pursuing at this time. But, once the decision is made to mandate that the City would have to give Ipads (or similar device) to Council.

The committee stated that staff would help any council member who wanted to take this on individually now could with all costs borne by the council member.

Telephone Project

Ms. Miller quickly reviewed the paperwork that had been distributed last month and again this month. The IT Committee request was that the project be brought forth to City Council with appropriation this year instead of waiting and going through the 2017 budget cycle. Main reason for timing the project now instead next fall which would assist in eliminating some issues the City was having with the current equipment.

The committee discussed the project and the timing of the project wasn't an issue but the recommendation of vendor selection wasn't supported in the report. Ms. Miller stated that she would have Mr. Kambo write up a memo about the vendor selection and why – this memo would be distributed before any appropriation ordinance on the subject was brought to council.

Powell Festival Contribution Repayment Discussion

Ms. Miller started the conversation with her recommendation memo – (a) not request totally repayment in one year (b) allow the cost used to invest in electrical infrastructure be part of the repayment and (c) not request all of the money back because the excess funding would be going to the City Parks.

The committee agreed quickly to not requesting total repayment in one year and the electrical investment. Most of their conversation was surrounding the excess funding going towards the park – understanding what that meant – and the history of Powell Festival money. After their discussion, the group came to the conclusion that \$20,000 would be repaid this year and the remaining \$20,000 would be repaid next year.

Revenue Discussion

Mr. Lutz asked Ms. Miller to start the conversation by going over what is inside and outside millage. Once that was accomplished, Ms. Miller went over the revenue discussion points in the handout.

The inside millage hasn't been changed in decades and as Ms. Van Fossen stated there didn't appear to be much chance in getting in changed. But, Ms. Miller and Mr. Lutz was going to discuss this in writing the County Auditor to get this documented and if it could be changed how would the City go about it.

The outside millage is the voted millage. Ms. Miller stated a few years ago the Finance Committee positioned the millage so it could be renewed every ten years to give the City between \$7 and \$10 million dollars for capital improvements. One of the options could be to ask for additional millage but as several committee members stated would be hard since the schools use this as their main source of funding.

Next was the development revenues. Ms. Miller stated that all the departments were getting involved in this part and reevaluating all the fees. The committee would be seeing the results of this during the 2017 fee schedule up-date either at committee or city council in the next month or so.

Last, was the income tax rate changes that Ms. Miller had asked the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to calculate for the committee. The committee went over the various scenarios to make sure they understood the worksheet.

The committee asked that staff prepare the best scenario combinations and bring that back to committee in November.

The committee also talked about when to bring in the public or a blue ribbon panel to assist with the discussions. The committee members seemed to want to continue to pattern set by the Comprehensive Plan committee and Keep Powell Moving. Who should lead the discussion was not clear because of the difficulty of the subject and cost associated. The committee will continue thinking about the topic and discuss it with the scenarios.

Other Business

None

Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 9:18 pm.