



City of Powell Finance Committee

MINUTES November 1, 2016

Attendees:

Tom Counts, Jim Hrivnak, Dan Swartwout, Brendan Newcomb, Frank Bertone, Jon Bennehoof, Brian Lorenz, Steve Lutz, Jessica Marquez, Debra Miller, Doug Wenzel, Kevin Moran and Megan Canavan.

Approval of minutes

Minutes were approved as printed.

2017 Budget Discussion

Ms. Miller stated that at our last meeting the draft Fee Schedule changes were handed out. There had been some minor changes so a new copy was handed out. Also, Ms. Miller handed out a "cheat sheet" on residential and commercial fees to assist the committee with the review. Mr. Lutz stated that it was the intent with Building Fees that new development pay for their services. Ms. Miller reminded the committee that a segment of the monthly Finance Director's report compares what percentage the fees are paying for the Building, Development and Engineering Departments. The percentage has been around the 50% range which is the minimum level that the City wants the coverage to be. Since the City is in the midst of high development demand the percentage should be higher at this time.

Ms. Miller turned the discussion over to Doug Wenzel and Kevin Moran from the Building Department. They went over the process of reevaluating the various fees and comparing to several other surrounding governments building fee schedules. The committee asked a variety of questions and received responses from Mr. Wenzel & Mr. Moran about the Ohio Building Code; square footage and expedited services.

Ms. Miller then went over the schedule of when the Fee Schedule would be presented to City Council and when it needed to be approved to be effective on January 1, 2017.

Next, Ms. Miller asked the committee if there was something in the budget that they would like to discuss since the last meeting allowed them time to ask questions but not time to discuss as a committee. One question was how much the change to the 2017 budget would there be to add the phone system/server/video system changes that were discussed at the Operations Meeting? The answer was \$38,000.

Mr. Bennehoof wanted the City to look into tele-commuting to assist in getting good candidates. Mr. Counts and Mr. Lutz asked Mr. Bertone to look at this in the Operations Committee.

The Lechler Building appearance was brought up and Ms. Miller went over where City Council could find the funds – Village Development Fund – by not doing the bikepaths/parking lots. The committee wanted to wait until additional information was available on Seldom Seen Park costs and Pedestrian crossing before making a commitment. Ms. Miller stated she would soften the language in the Capital section to reflect the possible future change.

Other Business

Ms. Miller let the committee know that staff would be bringing two different ordinance forward on November 15th regarding the expiring February 2017 note. One ordinance would allow the City to roll the note while the other would allow the City to move the funds into Bonds. This recommendation came from the City's financial advisors due to the change in interest rates.

Ms. Miller stated that if the City were dealing with the expiring notes today, the recommendation would be to move into bonds. However, with the time gap, the decision may not be the same when it is time to complete the deal in February 2017. Mr. Bennehoof asked about if Council would need to cancel or void one of the ordinances and Ms. Miller replied no as the wording in the ordinance wouldn't be valid for any other deal because there wouldn't be any maturing February 2017 notes.

Last, Ms. Miller was asked to give a quick update on the municipal income tax collections. As of October 31, 2016 the City had collected over \$4.9 million and today the City received its first installment in November which was in the \$378,000 range. The City is now looking at needing only another \$250,000 to make budget.

Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 7:05 pm.