

CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO

Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

6:00 PM

Meeting Called to Order: Mr. Barr called meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call: Mr. Barr, Mrs. McFearin, Mr. Furey, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Stauffer, Ms. Buccigross, Mr. Bellan, Dave Maistros, Mayor Yates, Jennifer Betenson

Absent: Mr. Scaffide

2. Audience Participation: None

3. Approval of March 23, 2021 Finance Committee Minutes: Ms. McFearin motioned to approve the 03/23/2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Barr seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Sarah Buccigross presented a Power Point presentation and discussed City Hall Technology Options with accompanying slides. Jennifer Betenson was available for questions.

- Building Up-lighting will replace currently rented equipment and estimated \$35,510.00 for fixtures only. Total cost of project will be approximately \$47,000 per Jennifer Betenson. This equipment will be under warranty for 5 years.
- Electronic Sign for City Hall: Options are being researched and discussions will continue. Proposals will be forthcoming.
- Council Chambers Technology: Proposals forthcoming to enhance streaming capabilities, training room capabilities and possible Emergency Operations Center. We are also discussing possible cost savings on projects with Community Focus Partnership.

Continuing with the slide presentation graph, Sarah discussed the Annual Debt Service 2015-2025 and the City's General Obligation Bonds. This information was shared by the Mayor at The State of City presentation. Mayor Yates stated the importance of sharing this information with residents to provide clarifications and avoid any misconceptions that may arise.

4. American Rescue Plan – Sarah Buccigross stated guidance has been issued on what local governments need to do to receive direct payment. We are ready to go. We have a valid DUNS number, active SAM Registration and Entity Payment information. We are still waiting on guidance for use of funds to be released next month on the four main categories for how we can utilize this money. Eligible uses include the following four items: 1) investment for water, sewer and broadband infrastructure programs, 2) hazard pay for essential workers, 3) assistance for economic assistance and recovery and 4) revenue replacement to the extent of revenue loss.

5. CARES Act: CARES Act (County and State) Sarah referenced presentation slides and discussed the revenue received: \$1,625,324.07. The City spent just under \$1.2 million for Police, Fire and Dispatch wage and pension costs. The City committed to no impact on Full-Time Safety Service Personnel during the lay-offs last year. Funds (\$421,051.00) were also used for Covid-19 related expenses including PPEs, touchless bathroom fixtures, small business grants, CPR machines, Multi-Agency computer aided dispatch, cleaning supplies, and temperature kiosks for all public buildings.

Sarah requested the Finance Committee present a motion for the remaining \$22,374.72 to be used to cover costs related to the touchless bathroom upgrades. The \$22,374.72 is a remainder due to other allocated projects coming in below cost. All projects were committed to by December 31, 2020.

Mr. Barr presented a motion to use the unspent \$22,374.72 of the CARES Act funds to cover costs related to the touchless bathroom upgrades.

Ms. Fearin seconded this motion. Motion passed 2-0

6. House Bill 157 & Impact on Income Tax Collections: In response to the Covid-19 global pandemic the Senate of Ohio passed House Bill 157. This legislation required employers to continue withholding income taxes based on the employee's principal place of work. If an employee worked from home, they still had taxes withheld for the locality in which they normally would have gone to work. Cities based their budgets and spending on being able to keep these monies. HB 157 removes the language requiring employers to continue withholding for the principal place of work. Current language would allow non-resident workers to apply for a refund of taxes withheld during their work-from-home period.

Twinsburg has several large office-based employers and some of those moved a portion of their employees to work-from-home status. Larry Finch is keeping in contact with our larger businesses. At this time some of the employers are returning to the office on a reduced or voluntary basis, but there is no indication at this time that these employers will return their staff to work in Twinsburg offices at full capacity.

RITA estimates that for every 10% of continued work-from-home employees, the City's withholding tax collections will be reduced by 3% (\$688,485). The 3% reduction includes offsetting revenues from Twinsburg residents who would begin paying Twinsburg should they remain working from home. Discussions are ongoing regarding refunds for taxes paid and changes that need to be considered going forward. This is a complicated and significant concern.

7. Comments/Questions: Verification given for income tax numbers.

8. Miscellaneous: None at this time.

9. Next Meeting Date: May 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM

10. Adjournment: Mr. Barr adjourned meeting at 6:27 PM.