

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
July 6, 2010

Members: Kathy Hummel, Chair
Don Walters
Carol Klinger

Mrs. Hummel called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-74
Temp. Ord. A-87
Temp. Ord. A-88
Temp. Ord. A-89
Temp. Ord. A-90

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-74

An ordinance eliminating biweekly pay for the members of the Civil Service Commission, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Hummel asked Mrs. Graeff whether she communicated with the members of the Commission on this matter since the previous week. Mrs. Graeff stated they had a test on the following Wednesday. Their discussion was put into a letter from Mr. Arrington to City Council. Mrs. Hummel asked if she was referring to the e-mail Council had received. Mrs. Graeff stated she was and confirmed that it was the response from the Commission.

Committee recommended holding Temp. Ord. A-74.

Temp. Ord. A-87

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts according to law for the sale of a 1979 Pierce Arrow fire engine in exchange for advanced driver training, and declaring an emergency.

Fred Jackson, the Assistant Fire Chief, stated they would like to trade a 1979 fire engine that was removed from service over two years ago. They are trading it to Drive Team for additional driver training. They will receive five driver training programs plus two for police officers. The monetary value is \$3,400 plus the City will receive an additional spot for the fire department which translates to a 14% discount. This is the best resolution for them to dispose of property with no value. Mrs. Pyke stated she liked how the Department was working with Drive Team and she also likes the fact that Drive Team is located in Cuyahoga Falls.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-87.

Temp. Ord. A-88

An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$10,600,000 principal amount of notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, for the purpose of revitalizing the State Road Redevelopment Area by acquiring, clearing and improving certain properties in that area, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brodzinski stated this legislation was structured by bond counsel to state "in an amount not to exceed \$10,600,000." The capital plan states it would be \$9.6 million so the amount they will be paying down is

\$1 million. The interest rate will be extremely favorable. He is hoping to get under 1%. Mrs. Hummel asked if there was a reason why \$10.6 million is listed in here if the plan was to do \$9.6 million in notes. Mr. Brodzinski stated this covers the City in case something unexpected happened and the City needed to borrow more than the \$9.6 million, so she listed the maximum which is the amount currently outstanding. This will take place at the end of August. Mrs. Klinger asked for something in writing that indicates the amount the City will be borrowing. Mr. Brodzinski stated it will be \$9.6 million. Mrs. Hummel stated that Mrs. Klinger is requesting notification that the City is, in fact, borrowing \$9.6 million. Mr. Brodzinski indicated he would do that.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-88.

Temp. Ord. A-89

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for well repairs and maintenance to City Well #15, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Hummel stated Administration has requested that this legislation be held so it will not be discussed tonight.

Committee recommended holding Temp. Ord. A-89.

Temp. Ord. A-90

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for replacement of the dehumidification units at the water treatment plant, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated that the existing units are in need of replacement. Some are original to the plant. They maintain the temperature. The units will be installed in the two filter buildings and also the software building. This was a budgeted item in the Water Dept. budget, and they hope to complete it under budget. Mrs. Klinger asked how many units there were. Mr. Demasi stated there were three. Mrs. Klinger stated that Mr. Demasi had indicated that two of the units were original to the plant. She asked how old the newer one was. Mr. Demasi stated it was 12 years old.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-90.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Diana Colavecchio

From: ArringtonVE@cityofcf.com
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 2:10 PM
To: cak@Klingers.us; cmeacham@ralaw.com; colavecchio-diana@sbcglobal.net; DSNKWalters@sbcglobal.net; iulajeff@yahoo.com; jjames1@earthlink.net; hummelk@att.net; KBarnhart42@yahoo.com; mihasz@neo.rr.com; maryellenward2cf@infionline.net; terry.mader@sbcglobal.net; vjrubino@yahoo.com; LohanB@cityofcf.com; BrodzinskiJF@cityofcf.com; Mayor@cityofcf.com; EnglishRL@cityofcf.com; TrubySL@cityofcf.com; CarrVW@cityofcf.com
Cc: msdeborahfaye@yahoo.com; rmking1@neo.rr.com; karen@nelsch.com
Subject: Civil Service

Dear Members of City Council.

I am writing as a follow-up to last week's discussion about compensation for the Civil Service Commission.

First, a request was made concerning the expiration dates of the current commissioners' terms. Those dates are as follows:

Debbie Graef (term expires 12/31/11)
Boyd King (term expires 12/31/13)
Karen Nelsch (term expires 12/31/15)

Second, the suggestion was made that the commission members should discuss among themselves what they might be willing to offer as a voluntary "concession," so to speak, in light of the concessions taken by other city employees in 2010. I think that, as council compares the civil service commission with other employees who have taken concessions, it is important to compare apples to apples.

Since 1999, civil service commissioners have received \$300/month as compensation for their services. (In 2000, the ordinance was amended to reflect a bi-weekly amount of \$138.46, which is the equivalent of \$300/month when spread over the year.)

For the past 10 years, the commissioners have received no cost-of-living increase in compensation. Over that same time frame, the city's other employees have received the following raises.

2000 3%
2001 3.25%
2002 3.5%
2003 3%
2004 3%
2005 3%
2006 3%
2007 3%
2008 3.2%
2009 2.5%
2010 -2.308% (in the form of furlough days)

Because of the compounding effect of annual raises, the total increase for city employees from 2000 through 2009 was 35%. Only after receiving those raises over the course of the decade were employees asked to take concessions in 2010. But, since the commissioners' pay has been frozen since 1999, they have not had the benefit of a 35% increase in pay from which to take a concession. One could say that they took the lead in taking concessions from 2000 through 2009 by foregoing cost-of-living adjustments while the rest of the city staff was receiving raises.

If the commissioners had received the same raises as everyone else from 2000 through 2009 and then received the same reduction in 2010, their monthly pay today would be \$395.58 (\$95.58 more than they are currently receiving).

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