

City of Aurora, Ohio
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2019

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 28, 2019, for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chairman John Kudley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Reva Barner
 Amy Eckard
 Kathi Grandillo
 Harold Hatridge
 George Horvat
 John Kudley, Jr
 James Vaca
 Scott Wolf

Absent: Dennis Kovach

Also Present: Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor
 Dean DePiero, Law Director
 Tim Clymer, Finance Director
 Laura Holman, Director of Parks & Recreation
 Kris Allen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
 Brian Byard, Police Chief
 Dave Barnes, Fire Chief
 Denise Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building
 Harry Stark, Director of Public Services
 Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council
 April Secura, Deputy Clerk of Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Approval of the May 13, 2019, Meeting minutes

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on an 8-0 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Eckard Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kudley, Vaca, Wolf

NAYS: None

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MOTION: To accept the Finance Director's Report

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Appropriation of Funds – Traffic Signal Repair

Mr. Stark is requesting an additional appropriation for the repair of the traffic signal equipment at the intersection of SR306, SR43 and East Pioneer. He explained there was a lightning strike that occurred a year ago and temporary repairs were done at that time in the amount of \$3,500. He said

that he got an estimate for further repairs of an additional \$6,744. He said he is requesting a supplementary appropriation for the additional amount because the money will come back to the city in an insurance claim.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the insurance will pay 100% of the cost.

Mr. Clymer said he believes it should less the deductible.

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

OPWC Grant Pre-application for E. Pioneer Trail Resurfacing Project

Mr. Stark said the next items apply to the OPWC grant pre-application process. He explained that because of the E. Pioneer waterline project they will resurface E. Pioneer Trail. He said the first application is specifically for the resurfacing part of the project. He provided the financial breakdown of the grant, loan and the city's responsibility. He said the application is due by the end of the week. He said if any of the projects are funded there will be a formal grant application before Council in October. He said at that point in time some of the numbers may change.

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

OPWC Grant Pre-application for Lena Drive Force Main Project

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

OPWC Grant Pre-application for E. Pioneer Watermain Project

Mr. Kudley asked how far down Pioneer will the project go.

Mr. Stark said the project will go to SR43, it will not impact the road widening project. He said it will include Adrian, then down to Eldridge where the newer line is.

Mr. Kudley confirmed it will not impact the reconfiguration of the intersection.

Mr. Stark said it will be in the grass area; it will be moved off of the road into the grass to SR43.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Contract - Environmental Design for Recreation Center Demand Study

Ms. Holman said the legislation will be to accept the proposal from Environmental Design Group to provide services for a demand study. She said they will look at what the current demographics is spending in the community and evaluate different types of recreation facilities in the area and help the city discern what type of facility the community would be interested in and able to pay for.

Mr. Vaca said this is round number four on this.

Ms. Holman said the demographics has changed since the last time a study was done. She said because of the changes within the last eight years and the changes that are coming in growth and

development it is appropriate to take a look and find out what people are asking for. She said some are living in types of areas in the community that don't have some of the same amenities as some of the previous ones do.

Mr. Horvat asked if there is a way they can put together a though on financing the project.

Ms. Holman said that is not specifically included; however, they will look at what type of facility would be financeable and then it can be looked separately what type of facility the community would be willing to support.

Mr. Hatridge asked Ms. Holman if she was able to tell them what the city is looking for.

Ms. Holman explained the city is looking to find out what people are doing and how they are spending their money in recreational facilities which would give an idea on what they would spend their money on. She said also looking at different things available in the area to see what the competition is and try to discern and look at ways the city could make a successful facility given the demand in the demographic area.

Ms. Eckard said Council looked into this two years ago and the past concerns were something that gave them pause and that is why it did not move forward. She said she would pass it on but she has reservations. She said her big question is does the school play into this.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said when the ad-hoc recreation committee was meeting they really looked at priorities from their perspective and people they knew. She said there are now specific financial studies done. She said the priorities were delivered and among them were Hartman and tennis courts. She said this is really different, this is really trying to find out what might be useful in the community and go from there. She said it does not look at funding. She said there has not been a study like this done. She said when it was on the ballot on 2002 there may have been a study associated with it but the demographics has changed since then.

Ms. Eckard asked if there is a pool is the school going to have any connection in the study.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the school is not involved in the study. She said school usage might be taken into consideration. She said this is really for the City's purposes. She said any conversations in the past five years with the schools it was clear from their perspective they might be able to commit with the some land but the construction and operations would be strictly the City's.

Mr. Wolf said he asked that money be put in the budget two years ago. He said it is strictly for a feasibility study. He said this company study demographics, see what other cities of similar size are doing; see what we can afford to pay for and what people are paying for as far as clubs and pools. He said the city would not be looking at partnering and putting this on school property. He said it will take about 7 months.

Ms. Barner said she agrees with Councilman Wolf that there are times you have to make an investment before you make the future investment. She said when she campaign for the last elections she was asked many times when the city would have a rec center.

Mr. Kudley said he agrees that the demographics has changed and that this is a good first step to help the city determine if they want to move forward. He said compared to the previous studies he thinks this is one of the cheapest ones.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Purchase, Installation and Repair of Skate Park Equipment

Ms. Holman said in the budget this year there was money to improve and repair skate park equipment. She said she went to those that put in the skate park and had them design additional equipment as well as talking with them on how to update what is there.

Ms. Grandillo said her son is very excited and impressed the park is still there as he is one of the founding members of the skate park.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote

Software Upgrade - Utility Billing Department

Mr. Clymer said he is looking at two software programs in utility billing department. He said they are looking to upgrade the existing accounting system and also to add a new module that will help some of their processes. He said they are also looking to add the work order module that will allow the department to electronically track work orders from start to finish. He said they are currently using index cards to track them.

MOTION: To Council this evening for first reading

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Employees Generally

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the employees generally reflects the hiring of an engineering intern and floater who will spend most of his time at the reception area and with different departments during the summer. She said also included is a part-time police dispatcher, part-time firefighter/paramedic and part-time intern for the boathouse. She said the person Council previously approved for the boathouse quite early on in her first day.

Mr. Kudley stated the boathouse is open approximately 70 hours per week. He asked how that will be handled with only one individual.

Ms. Holman said the intern position is not to be covering all of the hours of the boathouse. She said they will run a boathouse shift and also have additional responsibilities associated with inventory, ordering, liaising with the events coordinator for reservations and kind of be the point person with that individual and managing the staff as well.

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Change Order King Excavating Company

Ms. Holman said the change order is to extend the contract with this company once again. She said Mother Nature has not been a fan of the project and she is looking to extend the project to not later than August 31.

Mr. Wolf said they are out there whenever they get an hour or two to work. He said they are all there all of the time.

Ms. Barner asked if the cross-country trail has been worked on.

Ms. Holman said that is separate from this part of the project. She said the city doing the work, the trail is in, it needs to be finalized and marked. She said she has talked with the schools and the intent is to have people out there in the fall.

MOTION: To Council this evening for first reading

Mr. Hatridge moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Amending Chapter 161 "Employees Generally" of Aurora's Codified Ordinances

Mr. DePiero said he has been looking at the Employees Generally ordinance over the past few years. He said it has not had a complete overview since 2004. He said chapter 161 sets forth benefits and a number of other issues with non-union employees. He said as the collective bargaining contracts are changed they are not consistent with the non-union employees benefits. He said a number of changes reflect the changes that have been made in the union contracts and they are being brought in for the non-union employees. Mr. DePiero highlighted some of the changes. Mr. DePiero stated the employees generally should be looked at every couple of years to be updated.

Mr. Horvat said he is glad this has been updated. He said he feels it now equals out with the union employees.

Mr. Hatridge said he is glad for the update. He thanked Ms. Aldredge for her assistance on a few items.

Mr. Kudley said these are significant changes that needed to be done. He said it is suggested to go for three readings and he feels it should have three. He said this has not been done in a long time and it does reflect on a lot of authority Council has and how it might impact some of the things Council has control over and they should give it careful study. Mr. Kudley said he would like to meet with Mr. DePiero and Ms. Aldredge and go over some of his thoughts and concerns before the next meeting.

Mr. DePiero said he welcomes anyone's input.

MOTION: To Council this evening for first reading

Mr. Hatridge moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Service 9 Brush Truck Engine Replacement

Mr. Stark asked for authorization to enter into a contract with Complete Truck Service do an engine replacement on one of the brush trucks.

Ms. Barner asked if they offer any type of warranty. Mr. Stark there will be a warranty on the engine.

MOTION: To Council this evening for consideration

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Design Service for Vault Restroom Facility at Hartman Farm

Mayor Womer Benjamin said she went on a restroom tour with Ms. Holman. She said originally they thought to put compostable restrooms at Hartman but they are no longer favored as options. She said an engineering is assessment is needed to see if flush toilets are possible out there and the

cost of that alone is \$30-35,000. She said there are issues with septic because much of the ground where you would put a septic field out there has been disturbed and compacted. She said Ms. Holman did research and came up with vault restroom facilities. She said she looked at one and it is not bad. She said they are very modern, very attractive and useful. She said the engineering company that would provide the design worked for Summit County Parks and they were very satisfied with the results. Mayor Womer Benjamin said she feels that at this time it is better to go this route and get them designed and in as soon as we can and we can look later at other options.

Mr. Wolf asked if the city should be concerned of the amount of usage in a day.

Ms. Holman said the topic of capacity and how many water closets that need to be put in will be discussed and handled with the design firm. He said they will work with the Ohio EPA and any other related agencies to make sure the city is clear on permitting. She said it will have to be approved by the EPA.

Ms. Eckard asked if it is possible to have a larger facility for females.

Ms. Holman said they have discussed capacity issue and also a family restroom.

MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

Mr. Hatridge moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

John Kudley, Jr., Chairman

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council