

October 05, 2020

Members present Mr. Daniels, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Meade

With a quorum present, Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Minutes

Schaber made a motion to approved minutes of 09/21; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

MINUTES APPROVED (3-0)

Old Business:

Item 1. DISCUSSION OF CDBG LOAN FORGIVENESS

Lois Fisher, on behalf of Harding Centre (Starfish), explained that she has had additional conversations with insurance agents. They will not cover any of it. They felt like the building had issues before the weather issue. She has identified other companies that could do the work so that she can request multiple estimates. The Harding Centre is on the list of National Historic Places, so that makes it a bit more complex. She is still in same dilemma. In order to get a commercial loan on that building, she needs to have the city subordinate to a bank. They also need to have the commercial lender do an appraisal on the building. She has been working with Regional Planning on some other scenarios. She is considering options to sell the building to someone who is more able to make repairs.

Evelyn Warr Cummings (Regional Planning) provided some documentation of balances, payments, and options. The DOD cannot forgive the economic development loan, however, may consider deferral. The UDAG load is what the city can make decisions about.

Charlie Blevins (220 Blaine Avenue) explained that he lives in the neighborhood and is very appreciative of the many projects that Fisher has been involved with over the years. He did not think cash dollars should go to a person or local business (as grants). We have to do preventative maintenance, and she should too. He hopes that this action does not go to Council.

In 2013, Daniels explained that the assignment of the mortgages was brought to City Council. The had ordinally made in 1998. Many funding sources were obtained for the complex. Initially, it was to HAND (a non-profit) and was affordable housing complex. In 2013, no longer required to have low income housing. One of the requests when it was sold to Fisher was to take over assignment of two remaining mortgages. He felt that the person should have to sign personally, not an LLC in between. He wanted a personal guarantee. That was his objection then and he did not vote for it. We did not actually loan the money at that point; we just allowed the initial loan to be transferred. He commented that if the loan was not paid, the only asset they can pursue is the Harding Centre itself (not Fisher).

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Ken Lengieza (Regional Planning) said that at the time, there was a community desire to do something with that building. That would also allow historical tax credits. They needed someone from the Marion area who could market the facility. Fisher was the only one who could meet criteria. Part of the deal was to assume both of the loans and do several thousands of dollars of repair to the building. Many of the loans have been paid back. They are down to these two.

Daniels explained that he did not like the thought of forgiving the loan, but he likes to work through problems like this and to consider other options.

NO ACTION TAKEN

New Business:

Item 1. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITH THE GENERAL-SAFETY DEPARTMENT (\$1,500) (Caryer)

Service Director Caryer explained that this request is to transfer money from general safety department (\$15,000) from weed and blight to the garage maintenance. Things are getting better, but they still have 72 properties that have not been addressed yet. They are trying to get them all addressed before the end of the year.

Schaber made a motion to approve; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS APPROVED (3-0)

Item 2. DISCUSSION: LEGAL LEVEL OF CONTROL (Landon)

Deputy Auditor Watts provided a power point agenda and a sample report. We currently budget by line-item. In talking with peers and state auditor that we may want to look at options to roll up a level of budgeting. Departments could budget salary and benefits in one item. We could still talk about details as needed in committee, but they would approve at the roll-up level. Some of the transfers within funds would not have to go council because they are within the same roll-up account. Because we approve by line-item now, council has to approve every transfer, even within the same fund. They would have two buckets within each department. It is their suggestion that council consider this, and they believe it to be more efficient. Auditor Landon said that most municipalities have gone to this. They can still provide reports at the line item level. The budget would be approved at a higher level.

NO ACTION TAKEN

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Item 3. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF CITY INVESTMENTS (Pannett)

Treasurer Pannett provided a copy of the spreadsheet he puts together every month that shows funds and earnings. He provides to Auditor each month to cross check and balance. He deals primarily with Fifth Third on one large fund. We do have other deposits in other banks. Fifth Third deals with County Treasurer, City School, and other municipalities. Percentage return from there is one or two points more than anywhere else we could go. We are doing better than most organizations in the state of Ohio. Bottom line, \$15.9 million. He expressed that Fifth Third has been very good to work with over the years. They try to keep a little money invested in the local banks in the community.

Mr. Schaber asked whether these funds are available to go on a spending spree. Pannett advised not really. Keep in mind, we spend about \$600,000 a month in payroll.

Tracey Cooperider (904 Maynard) asked if this was a new figure or how long have we had this laying around? He was under the impression that the city was broke. It was explained that some funds are earmarked and are just a passthrough – special projects sometimes have designated funds.

NO ACTION TAKEN

Items not on the Agenda (Came in after cut-off):

Item 1. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS (Chief Deem)

Schaber made a motion to approve; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

TRANSFER APPROVED (3-0)

Item 2. (EXPECTED) DISCUSSION: FINANCE TRANSFERS REQUIRED TO BE APPROVED BY GOVERNING BOARD (Landon)

Deputy Auditor Watts said that in meeting with the auditors on the CAFR report that they did not think that it is correct to approve transfers in Finance Committee (without full council approval). No finding. They cited the ORC, but he did not give a section. They have worked with Law Director Russell who believes differently. At this point, they are trying to work through it. The auditors that have done our audit have not ever commented on it.

Their recommendation is that on a safe note, council should move that approval from Finance to full Council.

Auditor Landon said that it is not permissible for the council to delegate their authority to committee, per the Ohio State Auditor.

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If the roll up budget mentioned above was enacted, that would result in fewer transfers making their way up to Council/Committee.

Item 3. MR. BROWN BROUGHT FORWARD COMPLAINT ABOUT NEIGHBOR WITH FENCE.

Mr. Brown discussed an ongoing disagreement with fence, the height of a building, and a subsequent legal case. He sued and went through court on this and it was not found in his favor. Daniels explained that this is a Zoning Issue and not something they can do anything about in Finance Committee.

With no other business, Daniels adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Chairman Daniels

Clerk of Council