

April 29, 2020

Finance Committee Meeting

Board Members Present

Jerry Tarolli
Pat Hovis
Gabe Below, Chairman

Board Members Not Present

Guests

Mike Snider, Mayor
Dina Shenker, Law Director
Tracy Colston, SSD
Cole Hatfield, Auditor
Rick Noderer
Sharon Snider
James Snider

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., via tele-conference call.

Review of minutes: Approved as provided to the committee

Old Business

New Business

Ordinance 7-20, Ordinance 9-20

Mr. Below inquired about providing authority to execute all contracts for planning, design, and construction, on top of seeking exterior funding for grants and loans from different state and federal agencies.

Mrs. Shenker advised that the proposed language was provided by Poggemeyer.

Mr. Below is concerned about the passage stating execute contracts for planning, design, and construction. He is not aware that you can pursue grant and loan funds for such items. Concerned this would be a blank check.

Mr. Hatfield advised that historically the City has one ordinance to seek funding sources, then a separate ordinance for hiring engineering and design.

Mrs. Shenker advised she would revise the ordinance to reflect only seeking funding and design.

Mr. Below requested a time line of how ordinance 7-20 and Ordinance 9-20 would work together.

Mr. Hatfield advised 7-20 allows the City to seek out money sources for design costs. Funding sources that have been used in the past including DEFA has allowed us to seek and receive low interest loans for design aspects. Then that loan is rolled over to future construction loan. The target of 7-20 to seeking for funds for design costs.

Mr. Below stated for clarity – the intent of 7-20 is to seek out funding design aspect. Ordinance 9-20 is to enter into a contract with Poggemeyer for the design work, which is estimated at million dollars.

Mrs. Shenker asked if there is an estimated cost of design.

Mayor Snider advised the estimated cost is 1.5 million range (design and engineering). Once the City is able to hire Poggemeyer, they will provide the City with a proposal and the City will be able to negotiate.

Mr. Below is concerned about the estimated cost due to budget short falls with income tax.

Mayor Snider advised that is a different revenue stream, completely separate from the general fund. There will be an ordinance later on with a new line item (new department). Mayor Snider strongly believes the CARES Act will help fund this project. Even if the City receives no money from grants, the contribution from the community will cover the costs.

Mr. Hatfield advised that it is too early to determine what the COVID-19 impact will be to the City. As of today compared to year ago, there has been about \$47,000.00 drop in

income tax collected. We will not be able tell the full impact of on the income tax until this time next year.

Mayor Snider asked what is the reservation of this project (dollars and cents).

Mr. Below inquired the \$13.00 charge is the water/sewer portion. Yes, per Mayor Snider. The balance would be approved at the ballot box. Yes, per Mayor Snider. The charge will be based on property value.

Mrs. Snider's concern as a retired senior citizen on a limited income is she does not understand why things are not done for the good of the people, it always seems somebody has to get in there and put their priorities ahead of everyone else's. She knows that as Council people you have to have an obligation and duty you swore to do what is right and what is good. We cannot live in fear. Yes, you have to be diligent and mindful of what is happening in the world. But, if you are afraid of the pandemic and do nothing because of it, this City will close up and be gone. Our property values are going to be gone. It is more than money; it is pride within the community.

Mr. Below inquired about the road portion that is not overlaying sewer and water lines that is not being reconstructed, is new black top.

Mayor Snider advised that is yet to be determined. Yes, some of the streets will be mill and fill. Some of the streets will need to be reconstructed.

Mr. Below inquired to Mayor Snider - you are going to voters for road portion and it is a temporary fix (mill and fill) how do expect secure funding for Phase 2 at the ballot box.

Mayor Snider advised Phase 2 is building off roads that are only being milled and filled. House analogy: putting in the foundation of the house, eventually we have put the walls of the house and then down the road the roof of the house. We are trying to catch up from 80 years of neglect.

Mr. Tarolli inquired if we would be getting 7 years out of the mill and fill roads.

Mayor Snider advised 3 to 7 years is the estimate.

Mr. Tarolli inquired how many miles are in the City and how many miles will be completed in the first phase.

Mayor Snider advised 31 miles in the City. He did not have the total miles for the first phase available.

Ms. Hovis stated she understood Mrs. Snider frustration, she is with her. She understands Mr. Below's concern with what is going on with the pandemic. She receives questions from the community (even during the pandemic) if she has heard anything, when are they going to start working on the road. The community wants this done, it needs to be done.

Mr. Below asked if there is any additional discussion on Ordinance 7-20 and Ordinance 9-20.

Mayor Snider advised regarding legislation he is willing to do whatever it takes to get how Council would like to see it. Just need to get the roads paved and the sewers fixed.

Mrs. Shenker advised that she has made changes to the above ordinances per the discussion at this meeting.

Mr. Below inquired about the intended fee schedule.

Mayor Snider stated that is open to discussion. He will leave that to Mr. Hatfield.

Mr. Below asked what is the intention for the fee attached to the water/sewer bills. In addition to the ballot issue of the street portion. How do you envision enacting it and who?

Mayor Snider would be a separate charge (utility bill). The current policy for water / sewer will need to be changed to reflect utility bill.

Mr. Below inquired what election the City is looking to place the road portion on the ballot.

Mayor Snider would like to see it on fall of 2020 ballot. If we waited until the primary of 2021, it would move the project back by six to seven months.

Mr. Below asked what lead to the split, as initially it was all to be a ballot issue.

Mayor Snider advised when it first started the whole thing would be a ballot initiative. Then it became clear that we wanted to have Council involved. In addition, further along looking at funding, we will seek funding through the USDA and it will fit in their

wheelhouse more effectively by having two “pots”. The underground infrastructure Council takes action, while the above ground (road) portion is to be placed on a ballot.

Mr. Tarolli inquired what the average cost is to a homeowner, roughly \$20.00. Yes, per Mayor Snider.

Mr. Below inquired when the design engineering will be completed for review and working towards the ultimate fee levels and review to match it.

Mayor Snider advised after we sign a contract with Poggmeyer, it would be four to six months for the design work completed.

Mr. Hatfield advised that the County Auditor (Jennifer Widmer) has been approached by merchant groups for her to reach out to villages and municipalities about petitioning to delay payment on second half of property taxes. Mr. Hatfield advised Ms. Widmer that the City of Port Clinton would not be in favor of that suggestion due to the fact that the second half is a significant portion of revenues for the General and Fire funds.

Beach Ordinance (Ordinance 10-20)

Mayor Snider advised that there is no timetable that Council needs to act on this. DEFA meets once a month to review applications. We are looking at just burying the cable and making that secure at this time.

Mr. Hatfield advised that the DEFA loan is for design costs. However, we may submit an application to DEFA again for the construction at a later date.

Mayor Snider advised that this portion of the project the City should be able to complete in-house, except the electrical portion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be to be determined

Adjourn

Mr. Tarolli moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. - seconded by Ms. Hovis. All agreed.

Minutes submitted by:
Sandye Ostheimer
Council Clerk