



Finance Committee
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 - 5:00 PM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor Chip Dutcher called the Finance Committee meeting for June 21, 2022 to order at 5:07 pm

Members Present - Mayor Chip Dutcher, Jon Merriman, Don Barnard

Absent - None

Staff present - Jack Liggett, Sean Staneart, Rusty Smart, Bailey Morlan, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - Jesse Coppel

2. Jesse Coppel - Johnstown Chamber of Commerce

Jesse Coppel presented to committee on the work being done to create a Johnstown Chamber of Commerce. Noted that they have offered first year dues free to get many members, said he hopes to be up and running at the beginning of 2023. Mr. Coppel requests some funding from the city to assist in initial costs; provided committee with a breakdown of items and costs needed to get started.

Committee in favor of providing some startup money, discussion on five or six thousand dollars. Sean Staneart expressed concern for setting precedence on funding organizations; Mayor Dutcher noted that several organizations have been given some funding over the last few years and listed JYAA, the Historical Society, all of the food banks. Sean Staneart and Don Barnard to meet with the Finance Director on Thursday to review the budget and investigate funding options.

3. Lewie Main; Mower bill

Mr. Main previously attended a city council meeting to request reimbursement by the city for repair of his mower due to running over the meter pit in his yard. Mr. Main previously admitted he knew the pit was there but hit it with his mower because the weeds were tall; he had asked for repair reimbursement of approximately \$400. Committee discussion and decision to not reimburse Mr. Main for repair to his mower but that the Service Department would lower the pit making it easier to mow.

4. CDL Training Expenses

Mr. Liggett explained the requirement for new street department employees to get their CDL within eighteen months. Currently, training is done in house, the employee pays for the cost and is reimbursed by the city upon passing the licensing test. The city generally has \$500-\$600 tied up in getting a CDL license but the law has changed; now every CDL driver must attend a CDL driving course at a training center which costs between \$5,500 and \$6,000. Asking an employee to pay that amount up front is a much larger ask. Discussion on increasing the training budget to cover the cost and how to get the benefit paid for by retaining the employee. Discussed adding some penalty or reimbursement to

the city if an employee leaves prior to serving one year with their new CDL.

Decision to budget money for one CDL license every year beginning in 2023 and Jack Liggett said he will get the employee contract to state wording on a penalty if leaving before one year of service.

5. Identify Funds for Planning Services

Sean Staneart identified and reviewed funds in the budget as potentially available for planning services after conversations with the Finance Director. Discussion on items in the current year's budget that may not be purchased or purchased this year. Affirmation of committee members that money is available to cover planning services costs for a Strategic/Comprehensive Plan.

6. Employee Evaluation & Wage Review Standards

Jack Liggett said the city needs to look at a uniform way to give raises; said that police were getting three raises per year while other employees were only getting one per year. Mr. Liggett said he thinks they should look at a standard time for evaluations to be done and before they formulate the budget so they know what the raise numbers are. Discussion on giving COLA (cost of living) raises and merit or performance raises. Conversation put on hold to give time for consideration.

7. Other Business

1. Jack Liggett said that Megan Ward has agreed to stay in her current position as the Mayor's Court Clerk and reception in the Police Department. Mr. Liggett said this opens the door for Interim Chief Smart to begin interviewing a replacement for Officer Ballistrea. Mr. Liggett said his recommendation to committee and ultimately to council, is to replace one officer and bring on an additional officer as budgeted (replacement plus one). Council to discuss tonight and consider lifting the hiring freeze.

8. Adjourn

ACTION: Mayor Dutcher moved to adjourn; Jon Merriman seconded and all were in favor.

AYES: Dutcher, Merriman, Barnard

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

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Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm