Village of Middlefield Finance Committee
Minutes February 11, 2021

The Finance & Ordinance meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm with the following members present: Mr. Sam Morrow, Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti, and Mr. Hornung.

Also present: Mayor Garlich, Mr. Nick Giardina-Fiscal Officer, Ms. Leslie McCoy – Administrator, Chief Tucholski, Lt. Graley, and Ms. Jessica Giardina via video.

Agenda: No additions or deletions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: January 14, 2021 meeting minutes were presented for approval. ***Ms. Arganti made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (3).***

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Village Finances – Discussion:** Mr. Giardina stated that the water and sewer collections are up do to an industrial user that changed ownership brought their account current. The income tax collection is up about $8,000 compared to last year at this point. Discussion regarding the payroll account. Employment seems to be really strong in the village. Already transferred money to the Infrastructure account for proposed projects. Discussion regarding the debt service and the payments that were made in January 2021. There are two loans that are coming off in the next 5 years. Discussion regarding the interest rate on the loans.

2. **Wage Scale and Increases Based off of Income Tax Collections**: Mayor Garlich stated that this is a large scope of a project and feels that this should maybe be done in a work session. Mr. Morrow stated that his suggestion includes step raises and bonuses for licenses that are held. Would be hard to put into a calculation to say this is the amount of the raise. Discussion held regarding having a work session or a special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution 21-03 A Resolution Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Water Well License Agreement with the City of Akron and Declaring an Emergency:** Ms. McCoy stated that the agreement has been included in the packet and will allow work to continue for site location for water well #5. Discussion regarding why it is an emergency, Mayor Garlich stated that he would like to see it put on first reading. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to recommend Resolution 21-03 to Council, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. All in favor: Yeas (3)**.

2. **Ordinance 21-108 An Ordinance Authorizing all Actions Necessary to Accept Northeast Ohio Public energy Council (NOPEC) 2021 Energized Community Grant(s) Funds:** Ms. McCoy stated that this is the legislation to allow the agreement to be signed with NOPEC. The grant amount available is $22,503.22 from 2019, 2020 escrow and 2021 allocations, to do an energy efficient project within the Village. Discussion regarding using the money to change the streetlights to LED. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to recommend Ordinance 21-108 to Council, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (3).**

3. **Ordinance 21-109 An Ordinance Authorizing the Hiring of Patrick Cooney as a Part-Time Police Officer as of February 12, 2021, at the Initial Pay Rate of $17.00**

per Hour, and Declaring an Emergency: Chief Tucholski stated that Officer Cooney would be the part-time hire that the department has been looking for. Would like to bring him in at $17.00 per hour and once he has complete FTO training he be evaluated for an increase to no more than $19.00 per hour. The committee is in agreement with the request. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to recommend Ordinance 21-109 to Council, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. All in favor: Yeas (3).**

4. **Ordinance 21-110 An Ordinance Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Debt Collection Program and Agreement with the office of the Ohio Attorney General Pursuant to Revised Code Section 131.02, and Declaring an Emergency:** Ms. McCoy stated that this agreement would partner with the Attorney general to help with debt collection for non-payment. Discussion regarding that these are for the non-payers. The plan is very customizable. The fee is paid by the person that is not paying. Mr. Giardina stated that he feels this is a great idea, has seen this work for non-payers. Mr. Coyne is doing a great job holding people accountable. This program is just another tool for the village to use. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to recommend Ordinance 21-110 to Council, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (3).**

5. **Ordinance 21-111 An Ordinance Amending Existing Chapter 135 of the Codified Ordinances to Create the Position of Leas Wastewater/Water Plant Operator:** Ms. McCoy stated that this will allow the village to hire another operator at the plant but will show the higher achy based on the positions. This position would go to the current plant operator and then the new employee, should one be needed, would have the title of plant operator. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to recommend Ordinance 21-111 to Council, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. All in favor: Yeas (3).**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

PENDING

ADJOURNMENT

There being no more business before the Finance Committee the meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

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