

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
WORKSESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 - 6:00 PM

President Paul Hach called the special meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:00 pm for the purposes of a Worksession to discuss budget carryover and utility billing software with the following in attendance: Council persons Paul Hach, Katie Jenkins, Mike DeLeone, Lori DiNallo, Jim Fodor, City Manager Anthony Carson, Assistant City Manager Doug Lewis, Finance Director, Andy Unetic and Clerk of Council Tara Diehl. Council persons Andrew Flock and Tom Fitzgerald were absent.

Mr. Hach asked Mr. Unetic for the balance of the carry over budget. Mr. Unetic stated the General Fund Carryover balance is \$15,891.00

Mr. Fodor's suggested several ideas to utilize the funds: finishing Bank Street, Service Department facilities and equipment, infuse economic development, additional funding to the Downtown Painesville Organization and create a strategic plan for the future of spending carryover monies.

Mrs. DiNallo asked for the balance of the Emergency Reserves Fund and if there is a system in place for a certain percentage of the budget to be deposited into the fund. She also asked Mr. Carson where the Administration feels the money needs to go. Mr. Unetic stated the Emergency Reserves Fund balance is approximately \$525,000.00 and can be used at Council's determination for a dire emergency such as meeting payroll. Mrs. DiNallo questioned whether the carryover balance could be added to the emergency fund. Mr. Unetic stated yes.

Mr. DeLeone suggested the carryover balance be put towards repairing roads or placed in the emergency fund so it can be leveraged at a later time. Mrs. DiNallo agreed and expressed her concern that roads are an emergency right now.

Mr. Carson reminded Council he will be discussing a road assessment with Council and they should wait until that time to decide if the money should go toward roads. He also reminded Council that half of the \$15,891.00 balance may already be allocated, which cannot be discussed during this open Worksession as it is a matter of a Contract being discussed in Executive Session. The balance of the carryover does not have to be used at this time.

Mr. Hach suggested the carryover budget be put towards stormwater issues we may be facing in the next few weeks.

It was the consensus of Council that they have identified issues which are actively being worked on and will wait until the discussion in June before a decision is made on how to spend the carryover balance of the 2015 budget.

The next item discussed was new utility billing software. Mr. Carson explained he has been through this process before, the system Berlin was using was no longer supported by a company; it would take 6-9 months for an evaluation of our current system, would cost about \$150,000.00 - \$200,000.00 and training would be necessary for all employees who would utilize the new software.

Mr. Unetic and Mr. Carson explained the utility billing software is not a stand-alone system, it would have to be integrated with finance, payroll and utilities as we are all on the same system now. Currently our CMI software system receives customer support.

Mr. DeLeone requested that we post on the City's website "what a resident pays per KWH".

Mrs. Jenkins would like to see that information posted as well with competitors costs. Mr. Carson stated the "competitors cost" could not be First Energy, it would have to be a separated municipality in order to compares apples to apples.

Mrs. DiNallo questioned raising our base rate so the PCA is not as substantial. Mr. Unetic explained there is a formula to changing all the rates, not just residential.

Mr. Fodor asked for a study to be done on the man hours to create and post these documents by employees and the feasibility.

Mr. DeLeone asked Mr. Unetic if the amount and/ or the formula to calculate "per KWH" can be placed on the utility bill in the memo area without an expense to the City. Mrs. DiNallo agreed with this approach as it is not difficult to figure out the math for the amount residents are paying. Mr. Unetic stated he will look into the suggestions.

Mr. Carson told Council that at the next regular meeting on Monday, there will be legislation for a budget adjustment to purchase an additional truck for snowplowing which will be through electric, have a dedicated crew and route. The money is already in the reserves.

Mrs. Jenkins asked about the wage differences amongst the electric and public works employees for snowplowing and if this would cause Union issues. Mr. Carson stated he would handle those matters.

Mr. Carson also provided a copy of a memo from Fire Chief Mlachak which will be placed in their packets in regards to the need to finally move forward to replace the rescue truck which \$140,000.00 was budgeted for last year. The fire department held off to maximize the use of the old rescue truck,

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. DeLeone seconded by Mr. Fodor. All members answered "yes". Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Tara Diehl
Clerk of Council

Paul W. Hach II
President of Council