

## Minutes Financial Oversight Committee Meeting

5/17/16

12:30pm

Council Chambers

Attending: Pamela Spoor, Kathy Zembrodt, M. Mattone, Gary Huff, Phil Ryan, Chris Carle, Elisha Chamberlain, Alex Mattingly

Also present: Greg Claypole, Chief Cody Stanley, Lt. Richard Webster

Financials were distributed to the committee including: Ord. 8, 2016 – Budget, Full Proposed Budget, General Fund line was corrected from \$1,561,894 to \$1,592,194

Mrs. Spoor inquired about the status of the trash collection public bid and was informed it was still outstanding, but bids were due in this week.

PVA's certified numbers will be available on July 29. Mr. Huff advised that a call to the PVA office will give you the uncertified number and the percent of increase. Mrs. Spoor immediately called Julie Alig, City Clerk and asked her to place the call. She did and responded that the total last year number was \$190,420,000. She would call PVA.

Police Budget was discussed in great detail. Chief Stanley explained his request for a full time SRO and distributed his budget proposal, including 4 possible scenarios on salary, salary increase and how funding would proceed. In summary, the bottom line budget would remain unchanged from last year's budget despite hiring another full time officer. This is accomplished through savings both intradepartmental (notably reduction of part time pay, reduction in fuel cost) and SB206 savings and the contributions from Notre Dame and Covington Catholic High School of \$10,000 each. The SRO would be placed on a one-year contract so that if the schools were unable or unwilling to participate in the future we could terminate the position without issue. Also, the retired officers benefiting from the SB206 savings, by operation of the KRS, would also be placed on one year's contracts. SB206 is biennial and may not be extended indefinitely. It states that 25% of staff or 5 officers may take advantage of the program so long as there is no prearranged agreement. The employer is thereby relieved of pension contribution and medical reimbursement. The savings to the city is significant

The salary raises proposed by the chief will lift our police salaries to the competitive range with our sister cities. The schools are enthusiastic about the SRO – this will be the first such arrangement with

Catholic schools. The SRO will also patrol the Dixie Hwy. corridor and will be available for vacation coverage in the summer months.

Ms. Chamberlain noted that the salary increases were appropriate pay grade raises and reasonable based on her experience. Mr. Carle asked if during the summer months the SRO could be used to reduce overtime. Chief Stanley said that was his plan and said there was a reduction in overtime in the budget to \$3,000. Mr. Ryan asked what was the standard operating procedure for an SRO with respect to the schools. Chief Stanley said he is working on a protocol using the state model, but allowing for private school aspect. Mrs. Spoor asked if the schools payments would be monthly. Chief Stanley said he expected quarterly or semiannual.

Ms. Chamberlain offered to provide her SRO contract for Chief Stanley's assistance.

Inquiry was made about a vehicle for the SRO and said that it should be paid for from the Police Reserve Fund which presently has \$47,988. She indicated this was consistent with the purpose of the Fund.

Ms. Chamberlain asked if the 2017 new radio system was being accounted for as it would be a most expensive purchase – 1,000 to 2,500 per unit. Mr. Huff said he was budgeting \$250,000 for the system for Fort Wright. Mr. Mattingly said there were many unanswered questions about the new systems implementation and per unit cost. Ms. Chamberlain asked what the saving plan was. Lt. Webster responded that the department was saving \$15,000 per year for the purchase in reserves. It was also noted that police incentive pay was increased to \$4,000 per officer and that some portion of that number would not be reimbursed by the state.

SRO training begins in June in Richmond, Ky and lasts for several weeks.

Ms. Alig called and reported that the new uncertified PVA number for Park Hills was: \$192,483,800 representing an increase of \$2,063,124. The total revenue from ad valorem taxes was raised to \$402,291.

Mr. Carle asked that the approval of the SRO be contingent on the funding from the schools and that the ongoing status would remain dependent on such funding.

Lt. Webster gave an extensive analysis of the quality of police work provided in Park Hills and the difficulty in finding quality officers. He said the department has worked hard to establish good relationships with the residents and also stressed that one bad employee is very expensive. Hence the department is most picky about who they hire. Chief Stanley said that we need raises to stay competitive – we only hire good officers and we work hard. Ms. Chamberlain said that the request was a pay grade step up.

Ms. Spoor had to leave the meeting at 1:30pm. Ms. Zembrodt continued the notes for the minutes.

Mr. Ryan questioned why there was a 10% raise for Mr. Von Handorf and Ms. Alig. Mr. Ryan asked if this was the customary percentage per annum increase. Ms. Zembrodt explained that the Mayor met with the department heads. She also stated that the initial low salary coupled with previously low increases and wage freezes explained the high percentage. She said that such percentage raises were not customary, but unique to the present circumstances. In the case of Public Works the number of \$17.00 per hour was “thrown out there” and that Mr. Von Handorf was doing a good job. Mr. Mattingly said that it was important to keep salaries competitive. Ms. Zembrodt explained that in the case of Ms. Alig she was now doing two jobs since the retirement of Pete. The cost savings and increased workload justified her raise.

Ms. Chamberlain and Mr. Huff questioned whether or not there was a problem with overstating the line items – inflating the budget- to achieve savings. Ms. Zembrodt explained that the line item trajectory was clear year to year and increases were based on percentages. She also explained the operation of the reserve funds, how they work as a savings incentive for department heads and for the city itself. The funds help the city reserve for large future purchases.

Mr. Mattone discussed OpenGov and said it would cost about \$10,000 for three years and that it would not take much of Ms. Alig's time based on his conversation with the OpenGov people. Mr. Huff said it has worked well in Fort Wright.

The \$5,000 in Pathways line item was discussed. It was agreed that the monies would be used for the maintenance of the 4 existing paths originally built by the street car company. Ms. Zembrodt stated that it must be used maintenance only – not studies per residents input.

Digital sign was put in at \$7,500. Mr. Ryan said he thought it would cost 18,500. Ms. Zembrodt said that was for landscaping, stone columns and more. Sign alone is \$7500. Mr. Mattone said he wanted to hire professionals to study where to locate the sign. Ms. Zembrodt recommended putting it in where Mr. Claypole had it sited and relocating if there was a future need.

Meeting ended at 2:30pm.