

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO  
COUNCIL MINUTES

June 29, 2020

Special Finance Committee Meeting

The special meeting of the Council Finance Committee was called to order by Mr. Holt at 6:35 p.m. in the Virtual Webex meeting, per the Governor's Emergency Order.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

*Roby Schottke*      *Aaron Schlabach*      *Christine Houk*      *Randy Holt*      *Ted Berry*

1. Mr. Holt welcomed everyone and stated that this is the first in a series of financial meetings in preparation for the 2021 Budget. He recognized Mayor Stage for opening comments. The Mayor stated that this Tax Budget has been reviewed with great scrutiny, especially with the Pandemic. He said it is a good exercise to go through and having this meeting now is very timely.
2. Mr. Holt recognized Mr. Turner, Dir. of Finance, who shared spreadsheets to show the current balance and the Funds report (\$57 million in City Funds). He said we have over 30 different Funds, but feel the funds that should be discussed are those that are most affected by the downturn. Those are – General Fund; Community Development Fund; and General Recreation Fund. He shared a spreadsheet on the General Fund to show the actual amount and the projections. He said we have been fortunate to have above average collections of withholdings, for the first five months. For the rest of the year, he chose to project the same amount as last year and stay very conservative. Mr. Holt noted that this projection would be about 3% above last year. Mr. Turner went on to show that net profits and individual accounts are down. He anticipates struggling through the rest of the year and picking up slowly in 2021.

Mr. Schottke asked if individuals who continue to work from home, after the emergency is over, will have to pay Grove City Income Tax. Mr. Turner said yes, they should applying today's law. He said this is a dynamic that cities will be hearing about in the coming months.

Mr. Turner said he is projecting income to be down \$1.1 million. He said each Departmental budget was gone through by the Mayor and City Administrator to find savings. For example, he said all training was stopped, so monies allocated in the 2020 Budget for training will be saved.

Mr. Turner moved to the Tax Budget. He said this has purposefully been projected ultra-conservatively. He said he believes the end of this year will look good, but next year will be a challenge.

Mr. Turner moved to the Community Development Fund, which is where the Hotel/Motel Tax goes. He said collections are down and the estimates in the Tax Budget are deliberately low for the rest of the year. He noted that this fund pays for most of the City events.

Mr. Turner moved to the General Recreation Fund, which is money from all Parks & Rec. programs. He said these programs were all shut down with COVID19, so this Fund was hit pretty hard. He noted that some part-time staff was deferred to the Call Center, so there were personnel to pay for through that time. They are hopeful that this will get reimbursed through the COVID Grant. He said he is showing expenses to be normal for the rest of the year and keeping a conservative stand. He said to reduce costs, there will be a need to reduce people and programs.

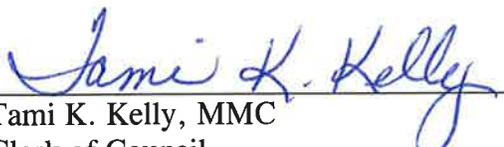
Mr. Turner noted that the rest of the Funds will act as normal. Mayor Stage said if the State Legislature starts playing with where people pay income tax and if COVID hits again, it may put us on our knees.

Mr. Turner noted that the Tax Budget does not appropriate any money. It is only a self-check of our funds and a projection for the rest of the year. He said legislation will be on the 7/6 Agenda for Council approval. He said the figures assume that \$3.5 mills in property tax will be levied, as usual.

Mr. Holt then moved to Capital Improvements on the agenda. Mr. Boso, City Admin., explained that \$8 million was appropriated this year in the Capital Improvement Fund. He said \$5 million is already underway with the Southwest Blvd. project; the Street Fund; Marsh Run project; and Demorest Road Engineering. He said that leaves \$3 million. Of the project listed for 2020, they have decided to not do the rest of the Service Dept. improvements; the Safety Building; the Senior Center; Century Village; Sidewalk program; and will only spend \$50,000 of the \$250,000.00 for Broadway Beautification. Projects on HOLD are: Pickle Ball; Broadway Utility Study; Town Center Parking; and the Bluegrass project. He said this will provide for \$1.8 million in delayed expenditures. He asked if Council feels any of these outstanding projects should get done this year. Ms. Houk asked how far out the Hoover/Bluegrass intersection would be pushed. Mr. Boso said they need a six (6) month lead time to get traffic poles, so if that is one that Council wants to get done this year, a decision must be made quickly. Mr. Schottke asked about the S.R. 104 Study. Mr. Keller, EMH&T, said they were finishing up that Study and hope to have it to the Dev. Dept. in late July. Mr. Boso noted that he has had discussions with the Pickle Ball group and that project was put out for bid to construct four (4) courts with amenities. The group would rather have six (6) courts without the amenities, which will cost a little more than budgeted. However, he thinks that project can get started this year and not affect next year's budget. Council discussed other Capital Improvements. Mr. Boso said there is a Sewer Relief project that they would like to get done this year and legislation is on Council 7/6 agenda for it. Mr. Keller explained that this was planned for during the Beulah Park project. It would divert sanitary sewer from the old Grant Homestead subdivision and relieve some of the sanitary from that area. Mayor Stage shared a list of capital projects they have identified for next year. Council shared their thoughts on future capital projects and the need for community involvement as we move forward with designing those capital projects.

3. Mr. Holt proposed the next Financial Committee meeting for some time in August to review June/July actuals; revisit the year-end figures; hear from the Citizens Financial Review Task Force; and review the 2021 Capital Projects list further.
4. After closing comments, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

  
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Tami K. Kelly, MMC  
Clerk of Council

  
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Randy Holt  
Committee Chair