

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

December 12, 2011

Special Finance Committee Meeting

The special finance committee meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry, at approximately 6:12 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 4035 Broadway. Roll was called and the following members were present:

Greg Grinch

Maria Klemack

Ted Berry

Steve Bennett

Melissa Albright

The Chair recognized Mr. Bennett, Chairman of Finance.

1. Mr. Bennett stated that the purpose for this meeting was to review the proposed budget for 2012.
2. Mr. Bennett recognized the Mayor, who explained that most of the Budget is historically driven. He said revenue sources are leveling. Most is a continuation of operations. There are two additions to staff: a police officer and the already approved IT person. He said we are financially healthy. There are resources available for capital spending. He said the operating expense to revenue still has a gap, but it is getting smaller. He showed a graph of the General Fund Budget and the breakdowns for each department. The revenues and expenditures remain stable. He said this budget doubles the dollars for the Street Program. He reviewed the 2011 Grants and Loans for street projects. He said we estimate a \$23 million balance for 2012. He said with that, we could operate the City for one whole year. This is twice what we like to have. He also noted having a sidewalk program to pay for half the amount of sidewalk replacements in selected neighborhoods. This is not funded in the budget. He just wanted to throw out the thought.
3. Council and Administration reviewed the Detailed Expenditures for the various Departments under the General Fund. The City Administrator, Finance Director and other Department Directors answered questions from Council.

Ms. Albright asked about going paperless and supplying Council with I-Pads. Ms. Kelly explained that several departments are looking at a new software program that may assist with supplying information through e-mail more efficiently. This was tried with BZA packets and it was difficult to see those documents on small screens. It was determined that the use of I-Pads could be done if Council decides they want to do this at a later date.

Under Lands and Building, Mr. Berry asked Mr. Spring, Dir. of Service, to do a breakdown on street tree expenses and review planting seedlings on city property and harvesting our own trees to see if it will save money. Mr. Spring said he would look into this.

Ms. Albright asked for a report on the monies we receive back on foreclosed property maintenance, etc. or do we have a process to know that we are getting all the money back that we are supposed to. Mr. Turner said we do have a process and we know them by instance. He could get her report on what was received for 2011.

Under General Government, Mr. Berry asked about the \$10,000.00 for unemployment payments that is new under 546000. Mr. Honsey said they would check on that and get back to them. Mr. Berry also questioned the 3+ million under 591000 for capital improvements and he moved to remove \$2.2 million from 591000 under General Government; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Discussion took place over having a list of the streets to be improved with this expenditure. Mr. Berry said this should be a topic for the retreat.

The vote was called.	Mr. Grinch	No
	Ms. Klemack-McGraw	No
	Mr. Berry	Yes
	Mr. Bennett	Yes
	Ms. Albright	No

Mr. Berry moved to restore the \$1,000,000.00 to the Town Center Loan Program under 595000; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

	Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
	Mr. Berry	Yes
	Mr. Bennett	Yes
	Ms. Albright	No
	Mr. Grinch	No

Mayor Stage said he didn't appropriate it because it was unclear to him if this is a revolving program or a stated amount program. He thought it was a revolving program when it was originally devised, which means you take the money that's already distributed as part of the loan proceeds and reduce the \$1,000,000.00. He asked if it is Council's intent to make it a revolving program or reallocate the million dollars. Mr. Berry and Mr. Bennett said they do not believe it has ever been a revolving program, thus the reason for the additional appropriation.

Mr. Berry asked about the \$75,000.00 for the Town Center Merchants Association. Mr. Honsey said their purchase order will be left open and available. He spoke to the Town Center Merchants and they have asked that the balance of \$27,000+ be carried over and have not asked for additional monies at this time.

Mr. Turner noted that the \$10,000.00 in 546000 is a duplication of funds. Mr. Berry moved to remove this; seconded by Mr. Bennett.

	Mr. Berry	Yes
	Mr. Bennett	Yes
	Ms. Albright	Yes
	Mr. Grinch	Yes
	Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes

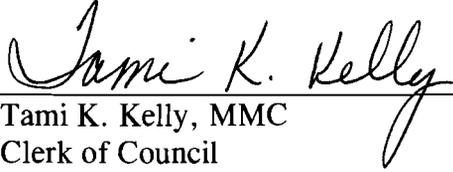
Under Streets, Mr. Berry questioned the \$20,000.00 for legal services under 541000. Mr. Honsey said that was a carry-over from last year because of the ASFCME contract. He suggested reducing it to \$5,000.00. Mr. Berry asked if it wouldn't be covered under Law. Mr. Honsey said maybe. Ms. Albright asked why the Street Fund is different from other funds, that don't have the legal services line item. Mr. Honsey said source of funds. Street funds must be used for street issues. Mr. Berry said General Fund money could be used. Mr. Turner said that was correct. Mr. Berry moved to remove the \$20,000 under 541000; seconded by Ms. Albright.

	Mr. Bennett	Yes
	Ms. Albright	Yes
	Mr. Grinch	Yes
	Ms. Klemack-McGraw	Yes
	Mr. Berry	Yes

Under the TIF section, Mr. Honsey said they would have a report at the next meeting on when these expire.

4. There being no additional questions or comments, President Berry adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.

Council adjourned at 9:23 p.m.


Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council


Ted A. Berry
President