

June 15, 2020

Members present Mr. Daniels, Mr. Schaber, Mr. Meade

With a quorum present, Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Minutes:

Schaber made a motion to approve minutes from previous meetings: Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Minutes approved for 01/21/2020, 05/18/2020, and 06/01/2020 (3-0)

Item 1. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS: AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT FUND: CAPITAL IMP TO PROFESSIONAL (AUDITOR)

Auditor Landon explained that this is a transfer to cover necessary expenses.

Schaber and Daniels asked if these needed to go to full council or could be approved in committee. Auditor said that he is trying to get a written opinion from the State Auditors Local Government Division and, until such time, he recommends that council keep doing what they have been doing.

Schaber made a motion to approve transfer of funds; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Transfer of Funds Approved (3-0)

Item 2. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS: LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND: TRUST SUPPLIES TO K-9 (AUDITOR)

Meade made a motion to recommend to council; Schaber 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Transfer of Funds Approved (3-0)

Item 3. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS WITHIN DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS: PARKS: CENTRAL GARAGE MAINTENANCE TO REFUNDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS (AUDITOR)

Schaber made a motion to recommend to council; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Transfer of Funds Approved (3-0)

Item 4. ORDINANCE MAKING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE MARION CITY COUNCIL BUDGET LINE ITEM – CAPITAL EQUIPMENT TO PURCHASE LAPTOP COMPUTERS NECESSARY GIVEN THE

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**CURRENT ON-GOING EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE NATIONAL PANDEMIC,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 (AUDITOR/SCHABER)**

Mr. Schaber brought this legislation forward to move forward to get technology under CARES Act funding. COVID has changed the way we do business.

Mr. Thomas asked why they would purchase computers for council. What are we going to use them for?

Schaber explained that this is for each city council member and the clerk. We are all on our own devices in this meeting and we should not be.

Tracey Cooperider (904 Maynard) asked what COVID19 had to do with computers because this is not going to last. The discussion has come forward about having regular meetings and this sounds like an excuse to purchase new equipment and just a reason to spend money.

Daniels stated that he agrees with Mr. Cooperider. He does not think that we will continue to be on computers for meetings much longer. We are all participating right now with our own equipment and able to computer. He likes the idea of the federal government buying him a new computer, but he does not need one and it is not required.

Schaber stated that his emails come to his phone and he is sitting on his son's computer to do official business. Any point, someone can make a records request for our personal devices, hard drives, or text messages. These are our devices. We are a city of 35,000 people. We should be able to have each council member on a computer. Whether your personal opinion is if you do not like computers, so be it. You will not be the council person forever. We should not be on our own devices because people can make records requests. We went through this 2-3 years ago when someone requested the entire hard drive of our council clerk.

Thomas wanted to know if these meetings are being recorded up at City Hall. Clerk Rose explained that meetings are recorded and are publicly available on YouTube. Thomas clarified that a FOIA request for these meetings could go to the clerk. They would not need his device to get the meeting. Rose confirmed that they would not need his computer to see the meeting. Why would we want to spend money on computers for each council person when there is no concern for FOIA? Rose confirmed. Rose specified that in 2018 that we had two different requests not to see the meeting or a specific record. The request for the actual hard drive. She believes that is where Schaber's concern is coming from. Schaber thinks we should move forward on this, especially when we could get reimbursed. Schaber does not think that this should go to his personal devices. A city of this size should be able to do that. Thomas expressed that he does not want to be responsible for the city's property.

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Daniels stated that he does not feel a full-time person should have to use their personal device, however he does not need it. He does not need it for council. We are conducting meetings and doing fine. This is the first time he has ever needed a computer, and this is going to come to an end very soon. These are tax dollars and he has a moral obligation against spending it for something we do not need. We all have the means to communicate. Thomas concurred. He believes that there is a certain amount money that could be spent in an area of the city that is more helpful.

Chaffin explained that CARES Act money could be used for technology. We have been trying to invest that money in police, fire, full time departments to try to defer some of the additional expenses that we had to incur due to COVID19. If that is the wishes of council, she would want COVID19 specified within legislation. They could attempt to use it as a reimbursable expense. She could not guarantee that it was a reimbursable item.

Schaber said that when we first gave permission to the Service Director to spend COVID19 dollars, this specific issue came up and that is what prompted this legislation. He is frustrated by the resistance of this council to technology.

Meade agreed that this gives us the opportunity to be more efficient. This would be something available to him, especially if his own technology failed. They are not trying to buy high end laptops.

Schneider agreed that this would make email readily available. If a second wave of COVID comes around it will make meetings easier on an ongoing basis. The city is a multi-million-dollar corporation and we run it. He does not know of other businesses of that size that would not provide technology to their people. It makes it easier for them to communicate with each other. The technology would remain the property of the city.

Feliciano asked if they get laptops would they be able to use them in full session in city hall instead of printing out packet. It costs him money to print these papers out. Will they get reimbursed for this?

Thomas said that if we are concerned about the cost of being a council person and maybe having to have paper printed. It would be cheaper to buy the paper for council members than to buy a computer for them.

Cooperider said that clearly you will have to purchase the same laptops with the same operating systems, and you will have to have an IT person as well. IT is seemingly that this will create more burden on current IT individual. You will have to have additional training for some people. It is not as simple as just giving them a laptop. Why is there not more of a push to get this back into chambers? He does not understand that. We are a free society, and this is taking away from freedom.

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Schaber made a motion to recommend to council; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Schaber, Meade; Nays – Daniels

Legislation recommended to Council (2-1)

Item 5. ORDINANCE MAKING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN THE POLICE FUND (SCHOOLING) ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, TO ACCOUNT FOR A REIMBURSEMENT OF AN OVERPAYMENT. (AUDITOR)

Schaber made a motion to recommend to council; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Legislation recommended to Council (3-0)

Item 6. ORDINANCE MAKING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE MUNICIPAL COURT, DUE TO A CHANGE IN THE MANNER OF DEPARTMENTS PAYING FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE. FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 (AUDITOR)

Schaber made a motion to recommend to council; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Legislation recommended to Council (3-0)

Item 7. ORDINANCE MAKING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN SUPPLIES FOR THE MARION POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020. (COLLINS)

This is a reimbursement under a grant.

Schaber made a motion to recommend to council; Meade 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Legislation recommended to Council (3-0)

Item 8. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT TO GENERAL FUND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, TO ACCOUNT FOR A RECENT TRANSFER AND TO CORRECT THE QUARTERMASTER EXPENSE ACCOUNT. (AUDITOR)

Auditor Landon explained that this was created because an employee was promoted from janitor to another position in the Sanitation Department. When they hired a new janitor, it created a shortfall in the Quartermaster fund.

Meade made a motion to recommend to council; Schaber 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Legislation recommended to Council (3-0)

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Item 9. ORDINANCE MAKING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION WITHIN THE MARION MUNICIPAL COURT ASSISTANCE FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 (AUDITOR)

Auditor Landon addressed this issue; however, audio problems make his response inaudible.

Meade made a motion to recommend to council; Schaber 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Legislation recommended to Council (3-0)

Item 10. ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH KOKOSING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR THE 2020 STREET RESURFACING, PROJECT 20-1R FOR THE CITY OF MARION, OHIO, APPROPRIATING NECESSARY FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (BISHOP/BISCHOFF)

Public Works Director Bischoff said that two bids had been opened 05/28. Kokosing was the lowest and most responsive bid. Their bid was \$1,177,220.82. Shelley and Sands bid was 1,213,665.08.

Meade made a motion to recommend to council; Schaber 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Daniels, Schaber, Meade; Nays – none.

Legislation recommended to Council (3-0)

Item 11. Auditor's Report (Performance against Budget)

Auditor Landon addressed council. Audio was problematic and it was difficult to understand. Overall City is in a good position with expenses vs revenue. They will know more once they get through the income tax filing dates.

Mr. Daniels asked what had happened that made the numbers look the way they do. Landon said that it was mostly income tax. Also, they did receive BWC that was larger than normal. They also received a large payment today.

(Landon had persistent audio problems throughout the meeting that made it difficult to understand the details of his comments.)

With no further business to come before the Finance Committee, Mr. Daniels adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Chairman Daniels

Finance Committee Minutes

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Clerk of Council