

**ASHTABULA CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

Monday, December 1, 2014

Council met in a **PUBLIC HEARING**. The Vice President of Council called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Member(s) Present: Mr. Richard F. Balog (Ward 1)
Mr. August A. Pugliese (Ward 2)
Mrs. Alice T. Cook (Ward 3 – arrived @ 5:46 p.m.)
Mrs. Josephine Misener (Ward 4)
Mr. Kris E. Hamrick (Ward 5)
Mr. Christopher J. McClure (Vice President)
Mr. J. P. Ducro IV (Council President – arrived @ 5:41 p.m.)

Member(s) Absent: None

Officer(s) Present: Mr. James M. Timonere (City Manager)
Mr. Michael Franklin (City Solicitor)
Mrs. Dana D. Pinkert (Finance Director)
Mrs. LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC (Clerk of Council)

Officer(s) Absent: None

SUNSHINE LAW: The Clerk of Council certified conformity to the Sunshine Law.

PURPOSE: The Vice President announced the purpose of this Public Hearing was to present the City of Ashtabula's 2015 Budget Appropriations.

WELCOME: The Vice President welcomed visitors.

DISCUSSION

The City Manager expressed appreciation to department heads for their cooperation in the budget process. He thanked the Finance Director for the work and hours she committed to the process.

The City Manager reported:

- * The budget is very tight and conservative;
- * Nothing out of the ordinary was requested; and
- * Everyone understands the position the City is in.

The Finance Director:

- * Explained the beginning budget balances are the lesser of her year-end projection and the Certificate of Estimated Resources, which is based on the City's Tax Budget that was submitted to the Ashtabula County Auditor in July;
- * After the first of 2015, when the actual year-end balances are known and everything is certified, she will perform an update which will result in budget changes; and
- * Surpluses found in the 'difference' columns are actual department expenditure requests that cannot be appropriated until the year-end balances are certified.

COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS

Ward 4 Councilor: Does the \$2.5 Police Services include the police levy revenue?

Finance Director: It is the Police Department General Fund expenditure. The Police Levy is found at the very bottom of Exhibit A, page 3. Only \$449,000 was budgeted to hire 2 dispatchers and 5 police officers versus the annual projected levy revenue of \$500,000, in order to budget conservatively.

Ward 4 Councilor: Asked to be refreshed on Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDDs) 1 & 2.

Finance Director: JEDD 1 is with Saybrook Township; JEDD 2 with Ashtabula Township. Budgeted is the projected JEDD revenue. JEDD proceeds are divided amongst various entities, including the City in accordance with ORC guidelines.

NOTE: The Council President arrived at the meeting.

Ward 4 Councilor: Asked for an explanation of the Parks & Recreation expenditures, noting she thought there was \$29,000 in their fund.

Vice President: \$28,500 is on the opening page of the budget for Recreation Fund 233. According to the report \$22,000 has been expended, with a \$6,500 difference.

Finance Director: We're projecting a beginning balance of \$4,381, and that's after we spend an encumbrance of approximately \$30,000 for playground equipment. The revenue source is the cable franchise fee. The \$22,000 expenditure is essential lifeguards and Bands-on-the-Beach. More was encumbered this year for these expenses, and the fund balance was used. Last year began with a bigger balance.

Ward 4 Councilor: Supposedly there was a day in March the company was to come in...

City Manager: The expenses to reassemble the playground equipment and to purchase new pieces were encumbered this year. If it had not been encumbered this year the beginning balance would be twenty-something thousand dollars higher.

Ashtabula City Council Public Hearing
Monday, December 1, 2014

Finance Director: Parks & Recreation started this year with a \$35,000 carryover balance. The projected franchise fee revenue is \$50,000 to \$60,000. The bulk of the revenue is spent on lifeguards and the playground equipment. Basically, this year, the carryover balance is being spent.

The Budget Estimate, with line item details, has been distributed. The appropriation ordinance presented this evening, which is not as detailed as the budget estimate, is based on the way Council legislates appropriations. The budget Estimate is available on our website, and a copy is available in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

President: Are Funds 412 and 503 Permanent Improvements, with one strictly for Water Pollution and the other for remaining City operations.

Finance Director: Yes.

President: Is he Municipal Court spending the Special Projects Fund's projected revenue, or holding on to the beginning balance as a safety net for unforeseen needs. Or is the fund's use still up in the air and we have to find out from the incoming judge.

Finance Director: It is kind of up in the air. In 2014 we came to an agreement with Judge Albert Camplese to appropriate funds, for their capital improvements, from the 412 Permanent Improvement account. The Judge approves transfers back to the General Funds to pay for different Court salaries and wages, etc., from their Special Projects Fund, to make up that difference. So, yes, it would be up to the sitting judge to determine what to do with the balance. The \$40,000 is a budgeted transfer.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS - None

CLOSING REMARKS - None

ADJOURN: Mr. Pugliese moved, Mr. Hamrick seconded to adjourn the Public Hearing at 5:43 p.m.; motion CARRIED.

DATE APPROVED: January 5, 2015

ATTESTED BY: J. P. Ducro IV

J. P. Ducro IV

President of Council

ATTESTED BY: LaVette E. Hennigan

LaVette E. Hennigan, MMC

Clerk of Council