

# New Philadelphia City Council

## Finance Committee

### Meeting Notes

November 27, 2017 – 6 p.m.

**Present for all or portions of the meeting were the following:** committee chairman Darrin Lautenschleger and committee members Rob Maurer and John Zucal; committee alternate Dean Holland; Council members Aimee May, Cheryl Ramos and Kelly Ricklic; Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Mayor Joel Day; Service Director Ron McAbier; Law Director Marvin Fete; Treasurer Tom Gerber; Auditor Beth Gundy; Safety Director Greg Popham; and city resident Dan Lanzer.

**ITEMS:** Proposed 2018 City Budget.

**PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET:** Auditor Gundy and Mayor Day provided brief overviews of the proposed budget. Ms. Gundy reminded Finance Committee members that she is recommending that the 10 percent of city income tax revenues that previously was provided to the Master Capital Fund instead should be placed in the General Fund. By doing this, the General Fund will balance based on the current projections, and this is included in the proposed budget before the Finance Committee.

In reviewing the 2017 budget, Ms. Gundy said that “we are pretty much where we expected to be at this time” in terms of revenues and expenses for the year. Ms. Gundy reported that while a slight increase in the city’s cost of medical insurance will occur, the proposed 2018 budget currently shows these costs remaining at 2017 levels. The renewal process will occur in the first quarter of 2018 and any changes will need to be updated. The city’s Workers’ Compensation program premium is projected to increase by about 30 percent after recent claims and because the city no longer is part of a “group” due to its recent claims history.

Mayor Day said the proposed budget does not have any major equipment purchases for 2018, but the city is still seeking potential grant-funded projects that it can partner with and that may result in changes in the budget as the year goes on. He said he is working on development of a two-year plan for implementation of salary adjustments and the salary scale recommended earlier in the year. This should be available for review for the next budget review meeting by the Finance Committee. He also reported that negotiations for new union contracts that would begin in 2019 are anticipated to start early in 2018.

Service Director Ron McAbier said that Finance Committee members should be aware of two replacement trucks he is proposing in the budget. One is for the Sanitation Department for replacement of a 2009 garbage truck that is beginning to show significant wear and has required around \$34,000 in repairs since 2015. The other is for replacement of a 1998 model “crane truck” for the Wastewater Department, which also is failing.

The Committee then began reviewing the proposed expenditures on a line-by-line basis. The Committee identified a few items and areas for review and additional information, and will continue its work at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** No formal action was taken, but the Committee agreed to meet again to further review the Proposed 2018 City Budget on Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. At the request of Finance Committee members, Chairman Lautenschleger will contact Fire Chief Jim Parrish and ask him to attend the Dec. 11 meeting if his schedule permits to further discuss the proposed budget for the Fire Department.

With no further business to be discussed by the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrin Lautenschleger  
Chairman