

New Philadelphia City Council

Finance Committee

Meeting Notes

December 20, 2016 – 5:30 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; Councilmembers Aimee May and Cheryl Ramos; Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Mayor Joel Day; Service Director Ron McAbier and Auditor Beth Gundy.

ITEMS: Proposed Ordinance 21-2016 and Proposed City Budget for 2017 (Proposed Ordinance 23-2016)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE 21-2016: This is an annual piece of legislation that makes necessary adjustments in various funds prior to the end of the year, Ms. Gundy informed members of the Finance Committee. She said it would be in the best interests of the city to approve it prior to the end of 2016.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Maurer, members of the Committee voted 3-0 to recommend placing Proposed Ordinance 21-2016 on the agenda for first reading at the Dec. 29, 2016, regular session of City Council, suspending the rules and approving the ordinance on first reading.

CITY BUDGET FOR 2017 (PROPOSED ORDINANCE 23-2016): Chairman Lautenschleger reminded Committee members that this meeting is to continue the line-by-line review of the proposed city budget for 2017. The review resumed on Page 19 with the Sanitation Fund. The following specific items were discussed in detail or required additional feedback and follow-up:

Page 19 (Sanitation Fund) – In response to a question, Mr. McAbier said that the city plans to conduct a review of the customer rate history in early 2017 (similar to the study prepared for the Wastewater Department in 2016) to determine if any future rate adjustments can be predicted.

Page 31 (TV Cable Franchise Fees) – Mayor Day informed Committee members that he plans to review the current contract for compliance and future items to improve the city's position in future agreements. Mr. Holland suggested that future fees collected could be considered for use in paying for installation and operation of security cameras being studied for use at Tuscora Park and the city Wastewater Department.

Page 34 (Fire Station Bond Retirement Fund) – In response to a question, Ms. Gundy reported that the costs associated with the preparation and execution of the bond for the fire station construction were about \$144,000. She also responded to another question that plans have not yet been discussed for paying off the principal of the bond early due to the age of the bond at this time, but that if rates are favorable, perhaps it could be refinanced in several years.

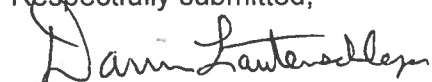
Page 40 (Water Distribution Fund) – Mr. McAbier said he would review the increase in the maintenance line item (No. 3502) from \$75,000 to \$110,000 to determine if any noted items are included. In response to a question, Ms. Gundy reported that this budget does include projected increases in rates being reviewed presently by City Council.

Page 46 (Cemetery Endowment) – Based on the approval of recent legislation by City Council, Ms. Gundy reminded Committee members that the funds in this budget line eventually will be moved and it will have a balance of \$0.00.

ACTION: On a motion by Chairman Lautenschleger, seconded by Mr. Zucal, members of the Committee voted 3-0 to recommend placing Proposed Ordinance 23-2016 on the agenda for first reading at the Dec. 29, 2016, regular session of City Council, suspending the rules and approving the ordinance on first reading.

With no further business to be discussed by the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrin Lautenschleger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Darrin Lautenschleger
Chairman