

New Philadelphia City Council

Finance Committee

Meeting Notes

December 11, 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 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; Fire Chief Jim Parrish; and city residents Dan Lanzer and Sandy Parrish.

ITEMS: Proposed 2018 City Budget.

PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET: Chairman Lautenschleger informed the Finance Committee members that he expected two topics to be addressed at this meeting, and the need for another meeting soon to continue to the normal review of the 2018 budget. Fire Chief Jim Parrish was present for this meeting after the Committee requested to hear from him concerning the reduction in overtime funding included in the proposed 2018 budget. In addition, Mayor Day had presented the Finance Committee with a recommendation for some salary adjustments for three positions among the non-bargaining and elected officials' positions.

Chief Parrish spoke from a Power Point presentation in which he outlined the Fire Department's current staffing levels, national standards for staffing for fires and related events, increased call volumes and total overtime paid out in recent years and related issues.

In response to a question from Chairman Lautenschleger about the process of the budget and the reduction in overtime included in the proposed 2018 budget, Chief Parrish said his original request included a similar level of overtime that is in the 2017 budget (slightly more than \$400,000). Auditor Gundy said the version of the budget presented to City Council for review included about \$180,000 for overtime for the Fire Department, and that it was reduced at the direction of Mayor Day. The mayor said he did request a reduction as part of a challenge to the fire chief to have overtime reduced in the budget, but did not request the reduction to be as much as was placed in the initial budget.

Chief Parrish, Mayor Day and Auditor Gundy, along with Safety Director Popham, said they would meet to revise the overtime to be recommended for the budget, along with any other necessary adjustments.

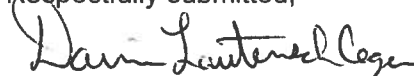
Mayor Day also presented a recommendation for pay increases for three positions among the non-bargaining and elected officials' group to be included in the 2018 budget. Three positions are proposed for increases for the beginning of the budget year (Jan. 1, 2018) – the two assistant city prosecutor positions (\$6,500 increase for each) and the police chief position (\$10,000 increase). The other positions will be evaluated after the first quarter of 2018 based on the position of the budget at that time.

Committee members did not immediately act on the request and will continue to review it as part of the overall budget review.

ACTION: No formal action was taken, but the Committee agreed to meet again to continue its review of the Proposed 2018 City Budget on Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Darrin Lautenschleger
Chairman