

New Philadelphia City Council

Finance Committee

Meeting Notes

February 22, 2016 – 6:30 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 Cheryl Ramos, Kelly Ricklic and Aimee May; Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Mayor Joel Day; Law Director Marvin Fete; Service Director Ron McAbier; Safety Director Greg Popham; Auditor Beth Gundy; Treasurer Tom Gerber and City Fire Chief Jim Parrish.

ITEMS: Proposed Resolution 4-2016, legislation request for materials and supplies for 2016; and 2016 Budget.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 4-2016: Service Director Ron McAbier said he was following up from the Feb. 8, 2016, committee meeting, and that the original amounts as reported are correct for the city's share in the resolution for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project located along a portion of Fair Ave. NE. The city's share is \$33,928 of the project's total cost of \$108,928.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Zucal, seconded by Mr. Maurer, the committee voted 3-0 to recommend that Resolution 4-2016 be added to the agenda for the March 14, 2016, regular session of Council and that the resolution be approved on third reading.

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION FOR MATERIALS and SUPPLIES FOR 2016: Chairman Lautenschleger reminded committee members that this is a routine matter to permit the city to solicit bids for materials and supplies for various city operations in 2016.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Maurer, seconded by Mr. Zucal, the committee voted 3-0 to request that the law director prepare the appropriate legislation, that it be added to the agenda for the March 14, 2016, regular session of Council and that it be approved on third reading.

DISCUSSION OF 2016 BUDGET: Chairman Lautenschleger opened a discussion about review and consideration of the proposed 2016 budget. As requested, the administration prepared and distributed for review by the committee and all City Council members the following materials: a budget summary report highlighting many items contained in the budget that received attention and review from the auditor, mayor's and/or other departments in preparing the initial draft budget, a summary of the various funds contained in the budget a list of capital expenditures included in the draft budget.

Ms. Gundy reported that the general fund carryover balance is down \$700,000 for the end of the year in 2015, compared to the end of the year in 2014. As such, she said she is recommending and has included in the draft 2016 budget an increase in overall revenue by increasing an additional 12 percent in income tax revenue for the general fund (via 10 percent from the Master Capital Fund and 2 percent from the Street Fund).

Ms. Gundy also said she would prefer to have Council consider a request to appropriate the budget by department, thereby showing entire amounts being assigned to individual departments. After some discussion and questions, Ms. Gundy agreed to prepare a draft for Council members to review utilizing this process. In response to questions about the status of the Cemetery Endowment Funds and the legal and proper expenditures that can be derived from them, Ms. Gundy said the law director was reviewing all aspects and more information would be available in the future.

Mayor Day said that negotiations with the city's labor unions would be getting under way in upcoming weeks and he would like to have some direction from the committee for bargaining purposes, as well as for considering any pay adjustments for non-bargaining employees. Committee members said they prefer that the mayor provide recommendations for discussion at a later date.

Mayor Day identified a number of areas within the draft budget where needs have been addressed, including the replacement of a total of eight vehicles in the Street, Sanitation, Water and Wastewater departments, as well as a request for the purchase of a vehicle for the Service Director. The mayor also said he does not believe that any increases will be necessary for city garbage rates.

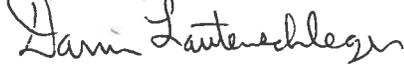
The mayor said he is requesting to create the position of a part-time building and zoning code inspector to address a number of issues, and that a position description and organizational charts for the position are being developed.

The committee agreed to meet again on Monday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. (later rescheduled to Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m.) for further review and discussion on the individual line items of the draft budget.

ACTION: No action was taken.

With no further business to be discussed by the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrin Lautenschleger
Chairman