

Finance, Wages & Audit Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 17, 2023
6:30 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers

The Finance, Wages & Audit Committee met on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. In attendance were Committee Members Louise Estep, Martha Frantz, and Rachel Smith, along with Mayor John Berry, Village Administrator Chad Beyer, Fiscal Officer Kristel Beyer, Councilperson Lynn Sylvain, Councilperson Rick Tolles and Residents Peggy Seab, Robert Stickley, Beverly Rochte, Angie Studer, Dave Fowler, Pat Snyder, and Larry Snyder.

The proposed 2024 Temporary Appropriations were reviewed. Louise asked if there is a Wage Ordinance and if the percentages were previously approved. Kristel stated there is a four-year ordinance and 3% was approved each year. Louise asked if the raises have been built-in to the Temporary Appropriations and Kristel said they have. Louise asked if we have received notice of any health insurance premium increases. Kristel said they have, and it is increasing by 16% and this has also been included in the Temporary Appropriations. Louise asked Councilmembers present, Mayor Berry and Chad if there are any projects, we should budget for during the first three months of the year. Chad said the Village Office needs new carpet and he is working on getting a quote and he said he is still working on the backflow issue but hopes to use the American Rescue Funds for this. He believed the carpet may come out of the 2023 appropriations. It was decided we will meet again in February to discuss the 2024 Permanent Appropriations.

(Louise made a comment that Lynn was videotaping the meeting.)

The proposed Mandatory Direct Deposit Ordinance was reviewed. If passed, it would take effect January 1, 2024. Louise asked Kristel to bring the forms to the Council Meetings in case anyone wants to complete the paperwork ahead of time in the event the Ordinance is passed. Lynn wanted to know why we felt this was necessary. Louise said we have had to open an Unclaimed Funds account with the State, due to checks not being cashed and Government employees are mandated to have direct deposit. Lynn said that was not true and Louise stated whether the ORC covers us as government employees or not, this needs to be done. Louise said it is Ohio Administrative Code 123:1:35-05. Rachel and Louise both noted they are government employees and have been mandated to participate in direct deposit. Lynn stated she wanted to donate her money to the Village. Louise stated she needed to cash the checks to do that and now she would need to get the money from the State. Lynn said she didn't want to get a check and if she did, she would donate it to wherever she wanted. Lynn asked why we brought this Ordinance and why not one so she could donate her money. Louise said if Lynn wanted to bring that Ordinance to Council she could do so.

Louise stated she would like to be more transparent with the finances. We are all stewards of the money and there are a lot of rumors out there and one is how much we have received from the American Rescue Act. We currently have \$105,589.92 in this fund. It was noted that these funds must be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by 2026. Louise proposed putting a new link on the Village Website entitled "Finance Info" or something along those lines with the following information: 2023 Estimated Resources, 2023 Appropriations, Quarterly Year-to-Date Expenses and Quarterly Year-to-Date Revenue. Louise also said the State Audit Report should be out there. The Audit Report is something to be proud of and we should have it readily available to the residents. Louise asked all present if there was anything else from a Finance perspective they would like to see. Lynn said the list of bills. It was noted that could be put on the website after they are approved, just like the minutes. Angie said the meeting minutes from each Committee. Louise stated that the Finance Committee minutes would be on the website once the "Finance" link was built and will ask that each Committee Chair do the same. Rachel said that she thought the Bio's that Robert mentioned at an earlier Council Meeting would be a good idea. She said this should wait until after the first of the year and the elections. Rachel also mentioned that the Appropriation Ordinances should be simplified so that when people review them and see all of the accounts for wages they think it is a position. All of our employees' wages are split over several funds. After discussion, Louise said she would put a footnote at the bottom of the Ordinances listing the positions and percentages that come out of each fund. Dave commented this is going in the right direction if it actually gets done he applauds us. He said it should have been done a long time ago and Louise agreed.

Louise asked the Committee if they had any other Finance topics to discuss tonight and they had none. Louise adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise Estep

Chair, Finance, Wages & Audit Committee