

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 21, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Berbee at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: J.R. Rausch, Mark Reams, Henk Berbee

Others Present: Terry Emery, Jenny Chavarria, Mike Andrako

Consent Item from Parks & Rec.- Plans have changed for the Dog Park, so it is different than what was approved by Finance Committee and Council. The new proposal was approved by Parks and Rec. at the meeting Tuesday night. All in favor of adding to the agenda the update on the dog park state "Aye". It was approved.

Approval of Minutes: There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the meeting on July 17, 2014 was approved as presented.

AGENDA:

Parks & Recs. Presentation: Mr. Andrako stated that he went visited several dog parks to see what we want ours to look like. He learned a lot. The parking need is in the evenings between 7:00-9:00pm, which is the park's busy time. We could use the parking at the MOC lot. There are 12-14 spaces available during the day, and at night we could have about 30 parking spaces. We could do a circular path that wraps through the park. We could use the paving for the path instead of the parking lot, and still keep it in the \$85,000 range. He contacted Columbus for the plans for the Spindler Road Park, which is similar to our park but more rectangular. He does not plan on spending money this year. He would like to start doing the grading and seeding this year in house. Next year do the paving of the path and fencing.

Mr. Emery added that the paved surface interior is nice for dog owners to use during the winter or spring time because the dogs still want to get out and run around.

Mr. Rausch inquired about the path. He asked Mr. Andrako, some are blacktop and some are concrete, what is the cost difference one way or the other? Mr. Andrako stated that asphalt would be cheaper.

Mr. Andrako stated that there are several trees that are being preserved, and hopefully seeding will be done in late September. By spring, we could put the path in and the fencing up. He was really impressed with the atmosphere of the dog park; it is not just a social event for the dogs but for the people. We are going to try and get sponsorship to help cut the costs.

Mr. Reams asked about the timing, since the paving project starts in summer. Mr. Andrako said they will just hire a contractor to build a path, and paving could start in

April. Mr. Berbee stated that Parks & Rec. should consider talking to local veterinarian offices, and the Humane Society about the sponsorships for the park.

Mr. Reams asked whether the original plan was to have three sections and rotate one out. Mr. Andrako stated that he took that idea off because it was not cost beneficial to fence off a section half of the year. (See handout attached)

The outline of the park follows the road that leads back to the mulch/compost area. Mr. Andrako feels that it is the best way to maximize the area. Mr. Emery asked if the Committee would like Mr. Andrako to do a power point presentation at the next Council Meeting.

Mr. Berbee asked Ms. Chavarria, whether we have to change the ordinance for this? She did not think so because we are still going to be doing the fencing. Mr. Rausch stated that the new plans should come back through to every one that approved it. Mr. Reams agreed because we were expecting a certain vision and that vision has changed.

Mr. Rausch thinks this is an improvement now that Mr. Andrako has had time to do some research.

Monthly Budget Review and Accept July Financials: Ms. Chavarria stated regarding income tax, we are over our year-to-date, (just over 9 million) which is about \$425,000 more than last year and about 4.9% higher. Based upon receipts received to date, the City should not have any issues with reaching the original budget. The total budget for income tax was approximately 14 million, and we might be slightly over that amount. Expenditures are what we expect to see through seven months of the year. Sewer fund charges for services are 19.2% higher than last year, we are starting to see the increase in receipts that corresponds with the overall usage being higher than last year. Water charges for services are 8.5% higher than last year.

Mr. Rausch asked if the increase in usage is because of more users? Ms. Chavarria replied there is a little increase in users living in single residential units. Mr. Rausch asked what the inspection fees are in the sewer fund? Ms. Chavarria stated that is all the inspection fees for the developments. Mr. Rausch stated the county capacity fees were 606 last year and we only budgeted 350 and we are already at 275. Ms. Chavarria stated that it is a difficult number to budget.

Mr. Berbee stated he would like to take some time in the next month to discuss the ambulance runs on behalf of ORW and ORW to Ohio State. We may want to look at the expenses. Mr. Emery stated that we will add this to the agenda for next month.

Mr. Berbee made a motion to approve July's financials, Mr. Rausch moved the motion, Mr. Reams seconded, and July's financials were approved.

Credit Card Update: Ms. Chavarria stated that we are still in the process of working with official payments to switch over to official payments from Chase. They had a meeting at 3:00pm today to get an update on the case. They are little slower than we hoped. Chase had some issues and they had to reassign the account. We have done a lot of work on the back end, the website is up and ready to go. We are about ready to start internal testing. Once we do that, we will be ready to go live. She is hoping within the next six to eight weeks that the City go live. Mr. Berbee asked whether six weeks is enough time? Ms. Chavarria stated six to eight weeks should be enough time. She will put this on September's agenda for an update. Ms. Chavarria stated once we know when it will go live, we will do a full media blast.

Ms. Chavarria and Mr. Berbee discussed the amount of charges to the customer, which will depend on what type of card that is used.

Mr. Reams stated that this is taking a lot longer than expected. Ms. Chavarria stated that she had thought it would be live in May, but there were unexpected circumstances, for example switching our account over and shutting down during their tax time. Hopefully, this will be taken care of in the next six to eight weeks.

Utility Rates Update: Mr. Reams stated that this group met, had some discussions, and are studying some points. We are looking at our numbers for the year on our revenue for utilities, and trying to determine what we need for the next several years, so we do not have wild fluxuation year to year. We are looking at water, sewer, and storm water, which have not been adjusted in years. We have identified projects that need done over the next several years, and what kind of revenue it would take to complete those projects. We will be coming back with some recommendations after our next meeting.

AMI Update: Mr. Emery gave a few examples of how the AMI system is helping at this point. 1.) A residential customer called about a slightly higher bill due to a higher than normal usage, basically what we found was we were able to look at the customer's usage. We noticed that the water usage was continuous each hour over a number of days. If you have a continuous usage around the clock there is a leak in the home. So we were able to show that there was something going on with continuous usage. 2.) There was a local business that called due to a slightly higher than normal bill, the clerk was able to isolate with date and period of time when the water was used. What they found was someone had left the water running overnight. 3.) We have worked with a local hotel over the past three months. We have provided specific dates and hourly usage reports for them. They have been very appreciative of us being able to provide these usage reports.

Keep in mind of our 7,500 meters, we still have about 2,000 meters that only read every 100 cubic feet used, which are harder to read the hourly usage. Those 2,000 meters will eventually be switched out. Ultimately, we are going to get better organized, people will be able to get online at home and look at their usage, then they will be able to track when their high usage times are and if there is a continuous usage occurring.

Our reading system between here and Jerome Village is not accurate. We have to do approximately 90 manual reads until we get a more constant reading system. We have had some transition in the personnel; employees are taking web based tutorial sessions during the month of September to assist them in better understanding the system, and to become more knowledgeable of all the things the system can do. Mrs. Myers suggested that we should come back before the end of the year and provide some more examples, and we could also report on this at council meetings during the administrative reports.

Mr. Reams stated that he thinks that would be good for the public to see how this helps them. Ms. Chavarria stated that there is probably about 40 meters that we have not been able to change to the AMI meter. We have not been able to get a hold of those homeowners. We will be sending out a letter to them indicating that we have made several attempts to contact you to get the meter changed out, and that this is the last attempt, if we do not hear back from you we will assume you have opted out of the AMI system and will be charged the \$50.00 manual read fee per month if the residence is inside the City and outside of the City the manual read fee is \$75.00 per month.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.



-  Proposed Asphalt Path
-  Proposed Path
-  Proposed Fence
-  Existing Lot
-  2' Contours

NOTE: This map is a resource to be used for general information purposes only. The City of Marysville shall assume no liability for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided.

All GIS data layers are referenced in the Ohio State Plane Coordinate System, Horizontal - North American Datum (NAD) 83 (95) Vertical - North American Datum Vertical Datum (NAVD) 88, Units - Surveyors Feet.

All data has been developed from public records that are constantly undergoing change and is not warranted for content, completeness, or accuracy. The City of Marysville does not warrant, guarantee or represent the data to be fit for a particular use or purpose.

Marysville Dog Park

Preliminary Layout



August 19, 2014