

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**May 20, 2019**  
**East Conference Room**

**Present:** Councilmembers O'Malley, Bullock & George

**Also Present:** Director Pae, Director Yousefi, Director Butler, a member of the public, and Deputy Clerk Lascu taking minutes

**Call to order:** 7:05 p.m.

**AGENDA: ORDINANCE 50-18A - AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force at the earliest period allowed by law, amending Ordinance 50-18 adopted December 17, 2018, authorizing the Mayor (Director of Public Safety), the Director of Public Works, the Director of Law, the Director of Finance, and/or the Purchasing Manager to enter into contracts for professional services, and to advertise for bids and enter into contracts for the purchase of repair maintenance and operating supplies, services and equipment as authorized by the 2019 Appropriation Ordinance and the Administrative Code of the City of Lakewood with the lowest and best bidder or bidders or as otherwise provided by law. (Placed on 1st reading and referred to Finance Committee 4/15/19; 2nd reading 5/6/19)**

Councilman O'Malley opened the meeting with discussion regarding Ordinance 50-18A, which amends a contract for managerial training sessions to the amount of \$205,000 and amends the contract amount for the hazardous materials abatement and site preparation of Cove Church to \$250,000.

Starting with the managerial training, Director Yousefi described some aspects of the training and highlighted its focus on developing emotional intelligence in management positions. 100 people have gone through the training, going down to the immediate supervisor level and union leadership has been involved as well. 45 more people are going through the training, which is increasing the cost of the contract. All the speakers in the program are from Case Western Reserve University.

Councilman Bullock asked if there is some sort of certification that is received through the program. Director Yousefi explained that the management course takes place for 5 days over a 5-month period. This is the City's 4<sup>th</sup> year doing the program. The actual cost of the remaining 45 individuals to go through the program is \$80,000.

In regard to the Cove Church contract, Councilman O'Malley stated that the figure seemed a little low to him and asked how the City arrived at the figure. Director Pae stated that it was based on an estimation of preliminary site valuations done by the City's consultant, which was

\$250,000. She added that the remediation will be necessary regardless of whether the property is saved or demolished.

Councilman O'Malley asked if the City goes into the property and sees that it needs to be demolished, would this contract alteration cover it. Director Pae stated that this amendment determines what the City's next step is in that process and allows staff to evaluate the possibility of rehabbing the Church. Councilman Bullock asked if the City were to resell the property to someone else, would some future user have to do this work. Director Pae restated how this amendment affects the process of site evaluation. Councilman Bullock asked if the City could potentially recoup the cost of the abatement if it decides to resell the property and Director Pae confirmed so.

Councilman O'Malley asked if Council approves of the resolution to purchase the Cove Church site at tonight's general meeting, would the mayor execute the contract the following day. Director Butler confirmed that statement and added that 5 votes are needed in order to pass the resolution at emergency.

Councilwoman George stated that she sat with the mayor for an hour and is comfortable with the figure being proposed in the amendment. Councilman O'Malley expressed his support as well and added that it shows the administration is ready to take the next step with the project. He inquired as to how quickly the bid would go out for this work and Director Pae replied that it would go out very quickly.

A member of the public asked when did the City make the decision to buy and preserve historic property. Councilman O'Malley replied that the City is not buying it for that reason and explained the importance of the site's location in the City's storm water management plan for the east side of the city. He added that the City has a unique opportunity to repurpose the Church into a senior center, which is appropriate for that neighborhood, considering the high density of seniors there. He also stated that the initial renderings of the project indicated that the Church seems well suited for renovation. He concluded with the statement that the property is being purchased for its utility, not for the sake of preservation.

Councilman O'Malley made a motion to recommend the ordinance for adoption by full council as substituted, which was seconded by Councilwoman George. All members voted yea. Motion passed.

**ORDINANCE 52-18A - AN ORDINANCE to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force at the earliest period allowed by law, to amend Ordinance 52-18, adopted December 17, 2018 authorizing the Mayor (Director of Public Safety), the Director of Public Works, the Director of Law, the Director of Finance, and/or the Purchasing Manager to enter into contracts for Memberships as authorized by the 2019 Appropriation Ordinance and the Administrative Code of the City of Lakewood, contracts not to exceed**

**\$80,000 without separate Ordinance of Council. (Placed on first reading and referred to Finance 5/6/19)**

It was stated that the purpose of the amendment to Ordinance 52-18A was to approve the City's membership to the National Alliance on Mental Illness Ohio. Director Pae stated that it is a \$60 membership for the City to join and the Lakewood Police Department will be utilizing the membership.

Councilman Bullock suggested not having to amend legislation every time an organization is added and discussion ensued as to why that has been the practice of the city over the past decades. Bullock favors requiring a communication to Council instead of passing legislation. Councilman O'Malley was amenable to having a conversation about that practice during upcoming budget discussions. Director Pae added that it was preferable that this legislation be passed on its second reading.

Councilman Bullock made a motion to recommend the ordinance for adoption by full council as amended, which was seconded by Councilman O'Malley. All members voted yea. Motion passed.

Councilman O'Malley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Bullock. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.