

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**September 5, 2017**  
**Council Conference Room**

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

**Also Present:** Councilmembers Anderson, Litten, Marx, & O'Leary, Mayor Summers, Planning Director Sylvester, Health & Human Services Director Gelsomino, Public Works Director Beno, Finance Director Pae, Police Chief Malley, Human Resources Director Yousefi, Christina Yoka of Earth Day Coalition, Michael Peters of REV EV Car Share

**Call to Order:** 6:05 p.m.

**ORDINANCE NO. 30-17** – Authorizing the transfer and advance of certain funds.

Director Pae explained that this ordinance is the standard ordinance introduced quarterly. Committee members briefly discussed.

A motion was made to recommend adoption of Ordinance 30-17. Motion was seconded and all members voted yea. Motion passed.

**Council Budget Priority Process 2018**

Director Pae remarked on some of the constraints of the budgeting process and how there are many financial considerations still being sorted out such as department budgets and one labor contract. She asked for Council's flexibility. She proposed that the administration could potentially begin planning some of the priorities this year but not complete them all. She discussed the timeline of the budget book which supports the appropriations ordinances, capital ordinances, transfer ordinances, and water and sewer rate ordinances. For the past ten years Council has been completing the budget by year end and a permanent appropriations ordinance must be passed by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Summers discussed the benefits of completing the budget by year end and encouraged Council to do so. He stressed that changes can be made throughout the year.

Councilmember Bullock remarked that the budget proposals propose a range of costs, some very nominal. He would like the initial conversations to focus on the qualitative aspects with the quantitative to be discussed more in depth later.

Mayor Summers remarked that from a brief look at the proposals he was encouraged to see few that called for ongoing maintenance.

Director Pae discussed the expected revenue decreases as a result of changes at the state level. It still remains to be determined how these will affect the bottom line.

Director Sylvester updated the Committee on the federal government's negotiations around CDBG dollars. A 1-5% cut is anticipated for 2018.

### Support Project SOAR

Councilmember Marx asked that funds be set aside to ensure the success of Project SOAR.

Councilmember Litten asked if funds from the State might help to fund Project SOAR.

Mayor Summers responded that the State does not yet have a strategy for dealing with opioid addiction but that the City has retained McCaulley & Company to advocate for such funds should they become available.

Other potential sources of funding for Project SOAR were discussed.

### Additional Shade at Pools

Councilmember Bullock remarked on the need for this proposal and thanked Director Beno for the work done in 2016 to advance this issue.

### Upgrade & Improve Webb Park

Councilmember Anderson remarked on the need for an upgrade particularly to Webb Park's playground equipment. He touched on conversations that he has had with the administration and explained that the proposal is a placeholder to represent the need to start a community conversation and plan for Webb Park.

Councilmember Bullock remarked that Lakewood Park has demonstrated that when the City invests in its parks that residents respond robustly.

### Kauffman Park Re-design

Councilmember Bullock proposed that the City go through a process for Kauffman Park similar to the process for Cove and Wagar re-design. He pointed out that playground equipment and courts are becoming outdated and that the City ought to engage in a comprehensive re-design before investing in these facilities. He expressed willingness to be flexible on the timeline considering the other projects taking place City-wide and the long timeline from the design to the completion stage of a parks project of this nature.

Director Sylvester remarked that the Kauffman Park which addresses long and short term plans was formally adopted by Planning Commission and that the City is moving ahead with incremental progress on it.

### Curb Replacement Program

Councilmember Litten introduced his proposal to set aside funds specifically to address the condition of curbs. His goal is to tackle the worst curbs first and to do it so that it is equitable across the City. He suggested the possibility of using CDBG money.

Director Beno mentioned that the City's pavement condition ratings may include a curb score in some cases.

Councilmembers deliberated on the possible logistics of such a program.

### Lakewood Park Recycling

Councilmember Bullock briefly introduced this proposal, noting that previous public recycling cans were unsuccessful on Detroit and Madison but that there is reason to believe that they could be successful in Lakewood Park.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Committee members discussed the logistics of EV charging stations with each other and Ms. Yoka. Ms. Yoka suggested that charging stations be installed at high-traffic, high-visibility locations. The parking lot behind First Federal was discussed as a potential location. The fees for using the charging stations were discussed. Ms. Yoka stressed that the stations themselves are not intended to generate profit but that they are expected to attract people to businesses where they are located.

The Committee discussed possible alternative funding sources for charging stations such as the Volkswagen settlement and the Electrifying America grant.

Mr. Peters discussed the REV car-share program as another way to bring charging stations to the City. Charging stations installed by REV would be available to the public for use.

It was stated that Westlake, Rocky River, and Cleveland have charging stations and that Shaker Heights and Pepper Pike are getting them soon.

### Outdoor Basketball

Mayor Summers expressed support for outdoor basketball but stipulated that finding the right location so as to not disrupt neighbors is the most important consideration.

Councilmember O'Malley remarked that the topic of an outdoor court at Madison has come up in his recent town halls and that neighbors have expressed cautious support. He added that the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee has done door-to-door canvassing to talk with Madison Park neighbors.

It was discussed that the ideal location for courts in Madison Park is where the current LEAF and H2O community gardens are located.

The current status of half courts in the City was discussed. Mayor Summers stated that a half court is planned for the southeast corner of Madison within one month. The previous history of courts in the City was briefly discussed.

Councilmember Bullock briefly mentioned the Committee's upcoming schedule to continue discussion on council budget proposals.

Finance Committee adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.