

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**September 16, 2019**  
**East Conference Room**

**Present:** Chairman O'Malley and Councilmembers George and Bullock

**Also Present:** Councilmembers Anderson, Litten, and Rader, Mayor Summers, Chief Malley, Director Sylvester, Director Pae, Director Yousefi, Director Gelsomino, Director Beno, Chris Parmelee of the Building Department, Katelyn Milius of the Planning Department, Clerk Bach, and Deputy Clerk Lascu taking minutes.

**Call to Order:** 7:02 p.m.

**Approval of the minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee**

Chairman O'Malley made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee, which was seconded by Councilwoman George. Both members presented voted in favor. Motion passed.

**2020 Council Budget Priority Process**

Chairman O'Malley gave a brief overview of the budget priority process agreed upon last meeting, reviewing each item one by one. Council would like to see the priorities reflected in the budget, and to what extent will be sorted out in November. Mayor Summers noted that the administration does not dispute any of Council's budget priorities, however there may be points of contention in their timing and prioritization. It was also noted that all of Council's budget priorities are reflected in the administration's budget in some capacity (i.e. parks, streets, sustainability funding etc.) It was noted that having both mayoral candidates currently sitting on Council could be beneficial and help form policy direction in the future. There was brief discussion about long range funding for bike lanes. The administration described a plan to restripe Lake Ave. with dedicated bike lanes, a plan that will cost upwards of \$100,000.

**13. Add Capacity for Property Inspections (Revised) – Bullock**

Chairman O'Malley permitted Chris Parmelee of the Building Department to discuss the proposal of adding capacity for property inspections. He and Mayor Summers indicated that finding talent in the field of building inspection has become increasingly difficult, and for that reason the department would be unable to add new capacity. However, a veteran building inspector could be redeployed in a pilot program focused on several blocks. The inspector, Justin Maskaluk, is currently going for a state licensure to be an inspector, which requires 4 years of experience in property maintenance. The pilot program would entail him walking a beat daily, which would require backfill of his work by other property maintenance inspectors. It takes approximately 6 months to a year to train a new code compliance inspector and the pay scale also serves as an obstacle (\$40k-\$42k per year). Municipalities have made recent practice of poaching each others' employees to fill out their building departments. Mr. Parmelee indicated the lack of staff could become a larger problem in the future as 90% of employees in the department are near retirement age. Councilmembers briefly discussed adjusting the pay scale of building inspectors to be more competitive in the field. There was also discussion regarding the need to keep up commercial corridors, while not taking attention away from residential properties.

The administration noted that hiring new inspectors is a priority and that Lakewood's building department is at an advantage because it has more tools and resources than most other departments in the area. Part of the department's operation has been automated by CitizenServe, so inspectors are able to utilize their talents efficiently without having to focus on clerical work.

#### 1. Traffic Calming and Speed – Litten

The administration indicated that it is seeking to do a speed table pilot program in partnership with NOACA on Marlowe Ave. south of Franklin. Generally, these projects need a great deal of community buy-in and development. Councilman Litten noted that getting over 50% of Marlowe residents to agree was not as difficult as expected, due to recent events, and that he was contacted by residents on other streets seeking pilot programs on their blocks. There have been some delays in the Marlowe project, which is being done in partnership with NOACA, but it should be done in the next couple of weeks. When placed, the speed tables will remain there for a full month, which will allow speeding data to be acquired. The tables are owned by NOACA, which makes the program free for the city.

#### 3. Zero Emissions Lakewood – Rader

The administration considered this proposal an aspirational goal and noted some of its efforts to reduce emissions at the wastewater treatment plant. Councilman Rader stated that the intent behind the proposal was to commission a study and initiate planning work to get a model to under what year this goal could be accomplished by. He would like the study to encompass a scope of city operation and indicated that Cincinnati and Cleveland have plans in place to reduce emissions. Several members expressed interest in a study being commissioned, as well as a desire to look at its cost.

Meeting adjourned: 7:29 p.m.