

COUNCIL PRESIDENT-JENNIFER WASILK
COUNCIL AT LARGE-DAVID JANIK
COUNCIL AT LARGE-MARTIN HEBERLING
COUNCIL AT LARGE- CHUCK WINIARSKI

COUNCIL WARD ONE-BRIAN DEMBINSKI
COUNCIL WARD TWO-BECKY HARMYCH
COUNCIL WARD THREE-JAKE WACHHOLZ
COUNCIL WARD FOUR-MATT NAHORN

CITY OF AMHERST, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF COUNCIL
(440) 988-2420
(440) 988-2570 fax

OLGA SIVINSKI
206 SOUTH MAIN STREET
AMHERST, OH 44001
council@amherstohio.org

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held February 19, 2024, at 8:54 P.M. Present in Council Chambers were Chairman Dembinski, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Janik, Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Nahorn, Ms. Harmych, President Wasilk, Auditor Phillips, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys, Law Director Pecora, Treasurer Ramsey, Assistant Law Director Ward, and one member of the press.

A-24-12 Bid and award the annual tree trimming project for the year 2024

Mayor Costilow mayor reminded Council this is similar to what we do every year but asking for \$90k this year. He would like the emergency if possible.

Mr. Wachholz motioned to send this to the floor of council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Voice vote 7-0 to send to the floor of council with emergency.

A-24-14 Authorize Safety/Service Director to solicit bids for the 2024 Road Rehab Program; authorizing the bid and award for such work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; emergency

Mayor Costilow explained that we've already passed the engineering portion and this is ready for bid. He is asking for emergency and suspension of rules. This does not include the widening of North Ridge Road.

Mr. Heberling motioned to send this to the floor of council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 7-0 to send to the floor of council with emergency.

A-24-16 Authorizing soliciting bids of the 2024 N. Ridge Improvements, OPWC State Issue 1 Rd 37; and authorizing to bid and award the contracts for such work to the lowest and responsible bidder; emergency.

Mayor Costilow explained that this does have the widening of North Ridge Road. The engineering is complete and is ready to be put out for bid. Mr. Wachholz asked if this is only to widen North Ridge Road. The mayor explained that this is the repaving of the entire road. Mr. Appell explained this is to resurface the entire road of North Ridge but does also include the widening. If the North Dewey project does not go through we could not perform that work. Mr. Heberling has issues with the issues of the widening of North Ridge concerning the dip and grading of the road around the existing properties. Mr. Dembinski spoke to the fact the rest of the road would still be resurfaced even if the North Dewey development didn't happen. Mr. Heberling explained he is concerned with approving this ordinance in case we have to make additional changes down the road. The mayor explained the historical context to how the city requested money from the state in order to resurface this project. Mr. Appell further explained the engineering required for the project. Mr. Heberling does not doubt that the entire project has been properly vetted but that he needs convincing as a non-engineer that the vetting is sufficient and even then he still has those concerns from the residents, and he does not want to make the problem worse for current and new residents. Mr. Appell reiterated that they're doing all they can to make it a safe intersection and that in the end it should be a safe intersection. Mr. Dembinski reiterated that yes, Valley Drive is and has been an issue. Mr. Heberling understands that it's also the grading of the surrounding homes, not only foliage blocking the view.

Mr. Nahorn motioned to send this to the floor of council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Winiarski. Voice vote 6-1 with Mr. Heberling voting no to send to the floor of council with emergency

A-24-13 Appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Amherst during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024; emergency.

Mayor Costilow explained this is very similar to last year's budget. Last year we had a projected \$10m carryover and this year it's a \$12m carryover. With this budget even spending more we should still have more expected carryover. The increase this year is only about a 1% increase from last year. The mayor spoke to the updates to the IT portion of the budget and how the overall dollar amounts don't change but the amounts from individual accounts have been updated slightly per our IT director. The mayor spoke to insurance and bonding has increased overall, the IT budget has been increased partially due to a new employee, capital outlay for roads has increased in order to resurface more roads this year, \$600k has been allocated to work for city hall including structural analysis and maybe some improvements to the auditorium upstairs. Mr. Nahorn is glad that the auditorium is getting some work done to it. Mr. Janik asked about the sewer rate increase and if the 10% fee is built into the budget and the mayor answered that some of that is factored in based on the timing of when it could be approved. The mayor brought up we'll need the emergency. Mr. Dembinski spoke to the fact we're budgeting \$10m more than we're looking to take in revenue. The mayor explained that we don't spend the entire budgeted amount but even if we did that we'd still be okay.

Mr. Winiarski motioned to send this to the floor of council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 7-0 to send to the floor of council with emergency.

Mr. Wachholz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Heberling. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 P. M.

Brian Dembinski, Chairman
Finance Committee