

**SAFETY, HEALTH, AND SERVICE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2018**

The Safety, Health, and Service Committee met Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 1:10pm in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre.

In attendance were Safety, Health, and Service Committee Members:
Chair, Mr. Kelly Ricklic
Mr. Dan Lanzer
Mr. Rob Maurer
Alternate Mr. Dean Holland

Guests were:
President of Council Sam Hitchcock, Councilperson Aimee May, Auditor Beth Gundy, Safety Director Greg Popham, Service Director Council Clerk Julie Courtright, Fire Chief Jim Parrish

Committee Chair Mr. Ricklic reported that the Safety, Health, and Service Committee met Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 1:10 PM in Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre to discuss the following items:

To discuss the SAFER Grant, a water and sewer application for outside the City, and any other matter that should come before Committee.

Chairman Ricklic stated that the first item up for discussion is the SAFER Grant. The Fire Chief is here. The Mayor was unable to attend due to a previous engagement. I do have The Mayor's recommendation of the analysis of the SAFER Grant.

Fire Chief Jim Parrish made the following statement.

I have a copy of the same thing that Mayor Day sent you. I also added in there some information on the SAFER Grant. What we're looking for is a Resolution in support of this. Along with the SAFER Grant we'll be asking State and Federal legislators to also provide support for that. We have no idea when we will hear back from them. The closing period is April 27, 2018 and the Federal Government doesn't move very fast so we may not hear anything July, August, into November. We also will have the option at the end of the day if we choose to not accept the grant we can do that. This just gives us more time to evaluate and look at our finances.

Safety Director Popham made the following statement.

I support the Resolution for the grant. We're asking for it, and all we're doing is saying that we support that, but at the end of the day we still have the right to say no if it would come to fruition.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

Just an observation based on my experience. If we do not do something, whatever that is to increase our staffing the day will come when someone either in the fire department or City administration is going to have to make the decision that these calls we don't answer anymore. Does it put us in the position of ultimately saying we will respond, as an example, to cardiac related incidents and trauma related and everything else is out. I don't want to be one of those everything else is out but the reality is if we don't do something to improve our staffing that's the way I see it based on my experience. I think there's some other issues that Council will need to address in the short term depending on what happens with Cleveland Clinic and the take-over of Union Hospital. Historically they have assumed some responsibility for ambulance transfer. They don't have anything to do with emergency services. Once that should occur, the transfers that previously Smith Ambulance had handled are taken away from them. That's where they make their money is in the transfers. There's not enough emergency services required in the County to support that overall ambulance operation. That being the case there won't be any other

emergency ambulance services other than Dover, Uhrichsville, a couple of other entities. Who's going to then respond to Goshen Township? We're looking at a severe overtime circumstance that is reality. It doesn't make any difference how we got here. We're here. The reality is that if we were to look at services outside the City we're talking about a tremendous amount of money, not only in overtime but in equipment and additional staffing. The matter of additional staffing is going to have to be addressed. This is an opportunity to do that. I would encourage the Committee to move forward to the recommendation to full Council to at least submit the application. If for whatever reason Council decides we're not going to go through with it assuming that it's approved by FEMA. We can certainly say "no, we're not going to do it". So we do have that fall back. We apply now, if for whatever reason Council decides it doesn't want to do that then we still have that opportunity.

Councilperson Aimee May had the following questions:

Is there no training gear after the first 90 days?

Fire Chief Parrish had the following comment:

We'll actually when they're hired they're already trained. The training that we do is on duty. We do an orientation and then after that it's on duty. When they come to us by ordinance they have to have at least a 36 hour preferably two 40 level 2 and their paramedic card or they have to be within 100 days of having a paramedic card. They have to be graduating from paramedic school to get hired.

Councilperson Aimee May had the following question:

Usually we're told that the average of hiring additional firefighters is \$100,000.00. That I'm assuming is including overtime and everything else, so we're assuming that the People that are called out on this with that we're eliminating the overtime and that number no longer is valid?

Fire Chief Parrish had the following comment:

We will never eliminate overtime. No matter how many people we have there is always going to be a liability of overtime. The City of Columbus has 1500 people working and they have overtime. The \$100,000 is including overtime that we've used in the past. I think around \$85,000 is probably more realistic. There's not an exact number there.

Councilperson Aimee May had the following comment:

When you presented this last year to us we requested numbers, when you presented it early this year we requested numbers. Mrs. Ramos I know has requested numerous times to get numbers. I just feel that giving us numbers a day before the meeting I don't think that was good. You told me that the Mayor told you not to do it and then in another you told Mrs. Ramos that Mr. Popham told you not to give the numbers. Whoever said not to give the numbers is fine but I think that we should be aware of that and know when we're requesting repeatedly to have these numbers or some kind of figures to know what is going on.

Fire Chief Parrish had the following comment:

To clarify that it was not that I wasn't allowed to give anyone numbers.

Councilperson Aimee May had the following comment:

You told me specifically on the phone that you were told not to give me the numbers or give Mrs. Ramos the numbers.

Fire Chief Parrish had the following comment:

My job is to focus on operating the fire department and I was told the Auditor's Office Has the numbers, the Mayor has the numbers and the Mayor explained to me that he would take it from here. Understand that I work for the Mayor and Safety Director. There are no secrets whatsoever.

President of New Philadelphia City Council Sam Hitchcock had the following comment:

I think we're all misreading what the original intent of this Committee Meeting was to start with. The Chief had requested to me to put this into Committee for the simple purpose of Council's recommendation for support of the application, not accepting the grant, just a simple recommendation that Council approves the application. As the Chief mentioned and as was mentioned a couple other times here at the end of the day we can turn it down. There's also going to be numerous opportunities to dig into the nuts and bolts of it, which some of us are doing right now. At this point the only thing that was recommended and requested by the Chief was the recommendation of the approval of Council to support the application, just the application. That's all. It disturbs me that we weren't able to at least get it on the agenda for the 1st Reading last time so that we would be in the timeframe that we still had opportunities to discuss it further.

Chairman Ricklic made the following comment:

We're here to support the application. What we're doing is we're showing support to the Committee that's going to approve whether they grant us the money. I hope the Committee and everyone here understands none of these dollars mean anything until we know what they're going to give us.

Councilman Holland had the following comment:

The grant will not be approved if it's less than a sufficient number of personnel to meet our standard.

Councilman Zucal had the following comment:

Having read through this, our numbers are our numbers but that doesn't mean anything to a degree because the grant is funded based on what would be considered the "normative expense" for a first year firefighter. Not set by the City of New Philadelphia but by national standard. That's where the funding mechanism kicks into place.

Auditor Beth Gundy made the following comment:

I just wanted to add something about the cost. What we were forgetting and what I forgot to mention was we were working on a 56 hour week up until last year or two years ago and now it's 52 hours so that makes a difference too. If we apply for a grant and have it turned down what does that do for our chances to ever apply again?

Chief Parrish had the following response:

Some of the departments that I've seen apply have applied several times.

Councilman Zucal had the following comment:

I stand with Mr. Holland. I think he put it very well. We've got to do something. We've been debating this overtime issue over and over. This at least is an attempt to do that. There are different ways to help fund this. We can do some things to help offset the cost. We're to the points of asking "hey, can we just apply for this?"

MR. MAURER MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE LAW DIRECTOR DRAW UP THE APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION TO SHOW THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF THE SAFER GRANT APPLICATION

MR. LANZER SECONDED THE MOTION

3-0

A RESOLUTION WILL BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA OF THE APRIL 9, 2018 REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

Chairman Ricklic made the following statement:

The 2nd issue before us is the request for water and sewer outside of City limits for the A1 group. A1 Developers LLC has reapplied for this request.

Service Director McAbier made the following statement:

This was brought up before in a Committee Meeting. They had submitted a water/sewer application. It went over the whole 87 acres. Kelly decided to table it because of the fact that it wasn't a legitimate water/sewer app because you're doing it for someone else. So, I reached out to George Helbling and told him there was a lack of information and we don't see a preliminary plan of what you're building on and what you have. My recommendation to Council at this time is to deny the water/sewer application.

Chairman Ricklic made the following statement:

What I see from my experience of being a water superintendent, what they're asking for is really hard to say "yeah, we'll provide that". When you send them water they have to send you waste, so without having those numbers you could be putting an unbelievable strain on your sewer system. Water is easy to get to them, getting it back to the wastewater plant is something else. The main sewer line may need to be larger to handle the flow. If they need 100,000 gallons a day to start in 10 days that's a million gallons. Is the plant able to handle that? What about the runoff and the water going onto City streets or on someone's property? Without having a detailed plan and the limitation of information they have provided us there's no way I could even in my right frame of mind put that burden on the City to be liable for it. I do not recommend passage.

Mr. Holland had the following question:

Was there ever any discussion about annexation?

Mr. McAbier had the following response:

Sure, and Mr. Helbing said he'd love to but there are restrictions.

Chairman Ricklic made the following statement:

So, the recommendations are to take it to Council floor and to vote as a roll call during the Committee report.

**ROB MADE THE MOTION TO PRESENT THE ISSUE TO FULL COUNCIL
DAN SECONDED THE MOTION
3 YEAS
THE ISSUE WILL BE PRESENTED TO FULL COUNCIL DURING THE APRIL 9,
2018 REGULAR MEETING**

With no other matters to come before Committee Mr. Maurer Motioned to Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 1:38 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Ricklic, Committee Chairman, Safety, Health, and Service