



## City of Pataskala *Legislative Report to Council*

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### Legislative Report

#### July 5, 2016 Council Meeting

#### Unfinished Business

##### A. Ordinances

##### ➤ AMENDED ORDINANCE 2016-4266 – 3<sup>RD</sup> READING

This ordinance has been amended since the second reading, and is being respectfully submitted to Council for a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading at the July 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. **Changes to the legislation since the last reading have been highlighted in bold below, and Council is being requested to substitute to this amended version at the upcoming meeting. Staff is recommending that Council approve this ordinance at its 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading.**

- *Sections 1 & 2: Utility Legal Fees* – Although the arbitration process with the SWLCWSD has concluded, the city continues to incur legal fees related to the matter. Ongoing negotiations and discussions regarding providing utility service to the recently annexed property. As a result, our legal fees continue to accrue and we do not have adequate appropriations for such spending. Please be aware that the amount being requested from the water and sewer operating funds is only an estimate. Should the final costs be less than the amount requested, any excess appropriations would lapse on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and revert back to the fund balance.
- *Section 3: Public Service Salt Budget* – The Administrator and Public Service Director are requesting to have a majority of the excess salt budget in the Permissive Tax (205) fund reallocated from the General Operating budget category to the Capital Outlay category. Effecting this budgetary transfer would provide additional funding for proposed new road paving and improvement projects. Please note that the reallocation of \$60,000 between the budget categories has no net financial impact to the fund, as it results in a zero dollar difference (e.g., \$60K increase offset by a \$60K decrease). The salt barns are currently filled to capacity, and (even with this reallocation) the road salt and brine budget line shall still have approximately \$30,000 to cover any additional required 2016 salt purchases.
- *Section 4: Ditching Attachment* – The Public Service department is proposing to purchase an add-on attachment for the recently acquired roadside mower to

facilitate improved ditching in the city. Under the current state term schedule (e.g., cooperative purchasing), the equipment is listed for \$10,655 although the department is considering trading in some used equipment in order to reduce the net cash outlay to the city. The Administration will be seeking authorization to make the purchase, as the sticker price of the equipment exceeds \$10,000.

- **Section 5: Recreation Program** – The fall soccer program registration is currently underway, and during the June 23 – June 26 time period, we’ve received approximately 31 registrations, totaling \$2,195. These receipts are being deposited into the Recreation (206) fund, and the revenue forecast will be adjusted upward to reflect these unplanned fund revenues. The Park Manager, Dave Ramsey, would like to begin ordering the jerseys and other materials for the program as soon as possible. The approved 2016 budget in the Recreation fund did not include any appropriations for program-related costs, and staff is requesting an appropriation of \$5,000 to cover this purchase, as well as any other material purchases during 2016. Please note that the fund’s sources of revenue are registration fees, concession stand/merchandise sales, and donations. No income or property tax revenues are used to fund recreation programming costs.
- **Section 6: Property Tax** – Over the past 18 months, the city acquired a number of right of way (ROW) dedications. Most of these are very small in size, and don’t have a very significant assessed valuation. Unfortunately, we are unable to apply for a municipal exemption due to the fact that the land is not being used for a governmental purpose, such as a park or having a governmental facility built upon it. During the development of the 2016 budget (and due to the lag in getting property tax info from the County), the amount of these additional property taxes was unknown. We are requesting an additional \$5,000 in General (101) fund appropriations to cover the outstanding tax liability. Going forward, the increased tax amount will be factored into the budget development process.

➤ **ORDINANCE 2016-4265 – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

Approval of this ordinance would rezone the properties located at 6407, 6409 and 6431 Summit Road from the Light Manufacturing (M-1) District to the General Business (GB) District. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the rezoning application at the May 4, 2016 hearing. The proposed rezoning is harmonious with the City of Pataskala Master Land Use Plan. The applicant, Mr. Jones, is requesting to rezone the property from the M-1 district to the GB district in order to bring the current uses of the properties into conformance with the permitted uses in the General Business district.

➤ **ORDINANCE 2016-4268 – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

Ordinance 2016-04268 is the legislation that relates to the proposed amendments to the City Charter, as presented by the Charter Review Commission. Included within the ordinance is the redlined text of the proposed changes. This ordinance will go three readings. Our language for the ballot related to these changes is due in mid-August. I recommend completion of the first reading of Ordinance 2016-4268.