



City of Pataskala *Legislative Report to Council*

Legislative Report

October 21, 2024 Council Meeting

Unfinished Business

A. Ordinances

➤ **ORDINANCE 2024-4482 – THIRD READING - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

We have identified multiple adjustments to the 2024 budget which require modifying the existing approved appropriations. **We are requesting that Council hold the 3rd and final reading of the legislation at the October 21st meeting and approve the legislation. Nothing has changed in the ordinance since the 2nd reading.**

- i. *Sections 1-2: Iron Filter Replacement* – When the 2024 operating and capital budgets were developed, it was anticipated that we would be receiving a 7-year bank loan for the project costs. As such, proper accounting for the loan revenue and project expenses would have them recognized in the Water Capital Improvements (602) fund. Since that time, the city has elected to issue bond anticipation notes (BANS) to provide the necessary funding for the design/build of the filter. As such, we should more appropriately book these revenues and expenses in the Water Bond Improvements (603) fund. We are requesting that Council reduce the \$2.75 million in appropriations from the 602 fund and increasing the 603 fund by \$3.48 million. The increase has a net \$726 thousand appropriations increase to the budget and reflects current cost estimates.
- ii. *Section 3: BAN Costs of Issuances* – Now that the city is planning to issue BANS to finance the Iron Filter Replacement project, we must plan for the paying and reporting the costs of issuance. It is estimated that the COI may be as high as \$24,000, but it may be less than that. The COI includes bond counsel, underwriters fee, municipal advisory fees, etc. I've included a copy of the estimated costs of issuance with my bi-weekly report to Council.
- iii. *Sections 4-7: Income Tax Collection Fees & Refunds* - Income tax and property tax collections continue to track better than the original budget estimates. During August, the property tax projections were increased to reflect the improved trend. Unfortunately, one of the consequences resulting from increased collections is that the costs of collections have also risen proportionally. In addition, the cost of making revenue-sharing payments to the school districts in 2024 has also increased. These sections represent the

increases necessary to cover those expenses.

- iv. *Section 8: WRF Expansion Planning Loan Budget Modification* – When the 2024 budget was originally developed, it was assumed that we would issue debt of \$1.5 million for the planning and design of the WRF expansion. We have received a DEFA loan of \$450,000 for the planning portion of the project. This supplemental appropriation would reduce the \$1.5 million down to the \$450,000 amount needed. At the same time, we would be reducing the revenue side by the same amount to reflect the approved DEFA planning loan proceeds.
- v. *Section 9: Licking County Fees* – The property tax revenues collected by the Licking County Auditor’s office greatly exceeded expectations. As a result, the costs of collection exceeded the original budget. We are requesting an increase in this line of \$10,000 to cover the costs of collection already charged against the gross revenue collected by Licking County.

B. Resolutions

New Business

A. Ordinances

➤ **ORDINANCE 2024-4484 – FIRST READING - INCOME TAX ALLOCATION RATES**

Once the 2025 debt service and operational funding requirements were identified, the allocation of income tax revenues between the Debt Service, Street, Police and Capital Improvements funds were determined. The initial portion is taken off the top to cover any outstanding debt service requirements. After that amount has been calculated, the next level is then allocated to the Street and Police funds to cover their current year operational needs. Any remaining funds at that point are allocated to the Capital Improvements funds. The 2024 allocations were as follows: 45.00% - Street; 45.00% - Police; 8.50% - Debt Service; and 1.50% - Capital Improvements. For 2025, the allocations are proposed as follows: 43.25% - Street; 47.25% - Police; 8.00% - Debt Service; and 1.50% - Capital Improvements. **We are respectfully requesting that Council hold the 1st reading at the October 21st Council meeting. We anticipate that this legislation will go through all three of the required readings.**

➤ **ORDINANCE 2023-4485 – FIRST READING - 2025 OPERATING BUDGET**

The proposed 2025-2029 capital improvements program (CIP) and any significant projects/initiatives and/or proposed staffing changes were previously presented to Council at the September 23rd Special Council meeting. The formal budget book has been prepared and already provided to Council. We will be tracking any changes requested to the budget and incorporating them at one time into the proposed budget to ensure that we all are working from the same version of the proposed budget instead of different amended interim versions. As a result, the proposed budget numbers contained in the attached exhibit remain unchanged (with the one exception being the addition of the requested \$15.0 thousand for the water spigot project) from those provided at the special Council meeting. **We are respectfully requesting that Council hold the 1st reading at the October 21st Council**

meeting. We anticipate that this legislation will go through all three of the required readings.

Consent Agenda

3. Motions

4. Resolution

➤ **RESOLUTION 2024-069 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE MILL STREET BRIDGE WING WALL REHABILITATION PROJECT**

Approval of this resolution will allow for the Administration to submit an OPWC application for assistance with the Mill Street Bridge Wing Wall project. This project is needed to the wing walls experiencing shifting which has caused premature erosion and may shorten the life span of the bridge if no addressed. This project will reset, anchor, and fortify the wing walls as needed to ensure the appropriate life span of the bridge is achieved.

To assist with offsetting costs to the City for this project, it is recommended that Resolution 2024-069 be approved.

➤ **RESOLUTION 2024-070 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR A LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT FOR THE FOUNDATION PARK PARKING LOT EXPANSION PROJECT**

The City of Pataskala maintains and operates the Thomas J. Evans Foundation Park (Foundation Park). With the significant increase in activity at the park, especially the growth of the soccer program, the need for more parking facilities has become clear. Discussions with the Buildings and Grounds Committee led to a focus on additional gravel lots being added near the soccer fields at the north end of Foundation Park.

This resolution seeks authorization for the City Administrator to apply for a grant under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program to support the Foundation Park Parking Lot Expansion Project. This project currently has \$100,000 allocated in the 2024 Parks Budget. To increase the capacity and scope of the project, the city is seeking an additional \$100,000 in grant funds through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. If awarded, the \$100,000 currently available for the project will be used as a local match. This will bring the total project cost to \$200,000. If this grant is not awarded to the city, we will simply move forward with installing as much gravel parking areas as the current budget allows.