

VILLAGE OF BRATENAHL  
10300 BRIGHTON ROAD  
BRATENAHL, OHIO 44108  
(216) 383-0468

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2023

5:30 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN LICASTRO

TOM McDONALD, CHAIR

KEITH BENJAMIN

TRACY HOEFLING

DAVID J. MATTY, ESQ. (Via phone)

JOSH A. FRIEDMAN, ESQ.

NANCY L. MOLNAR, RPR, CLR

Fiscal Officer report – January 18, 2023

The financials for the month of December 2022 and the final year end close reports for 2022 will be discussed at the February 2023 meeting.

1. Preliminary review (subject to adjustments)
  - a. Revenue:
    - i. Total revenue collected for 2022: \$5,227,782.37 (GF: \$4,907,550.66)
      1. Property tax collection: \$1,228,023.01 (\$68k delinquent)
      2. Income tax collection: \$2,838,474.42 (\$89k delinquent)
    - ii. Total revenue collected for 2021: \$4,821,216.90 (GF: \$4,516,493.42)
      1. Property tax collection: \$1,162,970.87 (\$92k delinquent)
      2. Income tax collection: \$2,766,308.92 (\$37k delinquent)
  - b. Appropriation:
    - i. Total expenses for 2022: \$5,024,758.51 (GF: \$4,272,770.63)
      1. 2041: Parks and Recreation: \$135,865
      2. 2071: Restricted Income Tax: \$370,131.73
    - ii. Total expenses for 2021: \$5,354,530.81 (GF: \$4,104,704.37)
      1. 2041: Parks and Recreation: \$131,478.97
      2. 2071: Restricted Income Tax: \$650,133.46
  - c. Fund Status
    - i. All funds for 2022: \$1,869,868.49 (GF: \$901,633.96)
      1. 2041: Parks and Recreation: \$214,079.97
      2. 4904: Capital Projects: \$421,519.76 – challenging auditor’s adjustment
      3. 9903, 9905: Agency accounts – not reconciled
    - ii. All funds for 2021: \$1,373,711.38 (GF: \$642,805.93)
      1. 2041: Parks and Recreation: \$207,924.30
      2. 4904: Capital Projects: \$226,334.76
      3. 9903, 9905: Agency accounts – not reconciled
2. Appropriating as needed – careful with spending
3. Escalating collections on delinquent property and income taxes
4. Exploring options for going cashless

1           MAYOR LICASTRO: We're back in open  
2 session. Would you turn the recorder on? Thank  
3 you, Dave. We'll start with Finance in a minute.

4           Okay. We are back in open session and  
5 we'll hold the rest of the Council meeting at 17:32:00  
6 abeyance and defer to Mr. McDonald and his  
7 Finance meeting.

8           MR. McDONALD: I'd like to call the.

9           MAYOR LICASTRO: To order. And, Ms.  
10 Cooks, could you call the roll? 17:32:11

11           MS. COOKS: Recorder, can you note that  
12 all members of the Finance Committee are present?

13           THE REPORTER: Yes.

14           (Finance Committee members present:  
15 Mr. McDonald, Mr. Benjamin, Ms. Hoefling.) 17:32:28

16           MAYOR LICASTRO: All members of Finance  
17 Committee are present and accounted for.

18 Proceed, sir. She's not doing the roll call.

19           MR. McDONALD: No, she's going to do the  
20 report. 17:32:39

21           MS. COOKS: Thank you. This is going to  
22 be very quick. I'm not feeling that great. So  
23 we will not review today the financials from  
24 December 2022, nor the year-to-date information  
25 for 2022, that usually takes a little longer. 17:33:10

1 There are going to be some adjustments that are  
2 going to need to be made for the month and the  
3 year.

4 MR. BENJAMIN: Adjustments for this year  
5 or last year? 17:33:44

6 MS. COOKS: For 2022. And I think I  
7 left my sheet on the printer.

8 MS. MEADE: You've got a good memory.

9 MS. COOKS: I do. So I do have my  
10 source documents. 17:34:08

11 MS. HOEFLING: Do you need the pay  
12 claims one?

13 MS. COOKS: I don't need pay claims.  
14 The sheets I do for the Fiscal Officer report,  
15 but I can do it from here. So what I did is a 17:34:22  
16 comparison between fiscal year 2021 and fiscal  
17 year 2022. Again, remembering that we will have  
18 some adjustments. The adjustment that comes to  
19 mind is, and Mr. Rich Robins pointed this out,  
20 that the adjustments that were made by the 17:34:50  
21 auditors, one of them was to the capital  
22 improvements fund. And I do believe it is  
23 incorrect.

24 Since I do not have their source  
25 material, I have to wait until they respond to my 17:35:09

1 email. And that is also a holdup for me closing  
2 2022, because I would love to know that the  
3 adjustments that they have prepared are true,  
4 because once you close the year, there's really  
5 nothing else that can be done.

17:35:33

6 So tentatively we will close the year  
7 collecting a revenue, \$5,379,595. Of that  
8 collected through to the general fund was  
9 \$4,907,000. The carry-over, as I predicted at  
10 the December meeting, is actually higher than  
11 what I predicted and it is \$901,000. So we have  
12 a very healthy general fund and hopefully we will  
13 continue that.

17:36:25

14 So as I said in December when we were  
15 discussing the appropriations, that it is my  
16 intent to appropriate for monthly operating  
17 expenses and payroll, but the department heads  
18 and commission heads have been asked to ask for  
19 appropriations as they are needed. So for  
20 example, if Ms. Lyons with the Shade Tree  
21 Commission has a project, she should come to  
22 Council and ask for that appropriation. I  
23 think --

17:36:52

17:37:20

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: Excuse me, so if I  
25 recall, December you projected a carry-over of

17:37:35

1 630,000?

2 MS. COOKS: I did.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: And now it's 901?

4 MS. COOKS: 901.

5 MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you.

17:37:45

6 MR. McDONALD: Good job.

7 MS. COOKS: Just a couple things on our

8 revenue. So the -- I'm sorry, I'm trying to

9 remember what it is that I had on that sheet.

10 I'm usually way more prepared than this.

17:38:09

11 So we collected in income tax 2.7

12 million. That was short of what they predicted

13 that we would collect. And I have made all the

14 collections posted through December '22. There's

15 about \$100,000 of delinquencies for income tax.

17:38:35

16 And property tax we are right on schedule for

17 what the county said that we would receive, but

18 there's also about a \$37,000 delinquency in that.

19 Both agencies have been instructed by me, the tax

20 administrator, to escalate collections on those

17:38:59

21 amounts.

22 MR. BENJAMIN: You said 100,000 for

23 income?

24 MS. COOKS: 100,000 for income and about

25 37 for property taxes. Not income tax, but with

17:39:07

1 property tax, what generally happens is when  
2 there are homesteaders and also when people make  
3 payment arrangements, they show up as  
4 delinquencies, but collections may not start with  
5 them because they have a payment plan.

17:39:33

6 MR. BENJAMIN: Okay.

7 MS. COOKS: So we hope in the next six  
8 months or so that the escalated collections will  
9 help with those collections so we can hopefully  
10 get another 137.

17:39:47

11 MR. BENJAMIN: Now that we're with RITA,  
12 does RITA go after the uncollected income tax  
13 funds or is that something that you have to do?

14 MS. COOKS: No, there are three choices.  
15 And I make the choice that they escalate  
16 collections.

17:40:01

17 MR. BENJAMIN: So RITA does that.

18 MS. COOKS: RITA does that and so does  
19 the county. So RITA specifically gives three  
20 options. You can self-collect, which I had no  
21 desire to do. Mostly because it's such a small  
22 community and I know a lot of the people, so I  
23 can't divulge who they are, and it makes it  
24 uncomfortable when you're trying to collect from  
25 people that you know.

17:40:13

17:40:35

1           So self-collect; they can escalate  
2 collections, which is what I have asked them to  
3 do; or they can start a lawsuit, which is not an  
4 option right now. And the county will do the  
5 same. They will -- they did not say that they  
6 have three levels. They have two. They can  
7 escalate collections and they can -- you know  
8 what it's called when they put it on your taxes.

17:40:51

9           MAYOR LICASTRO: A lien.

10           MS. COOKS: A lien on their property. I  
11 know I've said it in the past that this year  
12 starts an annual audit, so there will be no more  
13 bi-annual audits. However, '21 and '22, that  
14 audit will begin in April. I'm preparing for  
15 that right now. And I've been in communication  
16 with the auditors in regard to the adjustment  
17 that I think needs to be made to the capital  
18 improvements fund. And I think that concludes my  
19 report and, again, my apologies.

17:41:08

17:41:37

20           MAYOR LICASTRO: I'd like to add that  
21 Ms. Cooks' projection of income tax was much more  
22 accurate than RITA's. Unfortunately, we were  
23 hoping RITA's was more accurate, it was higher,  
24 but her knowing this by rote is very helpful.

17:41:56

25           Will you be making a prediction of what

17:42:13



1 we can expect in '23 in income tax?

2 MS. COOKS: Well, I did complete the  
3 Certificate of Estimated Resources. I have just  
4 about 3 million, around 2.9. So hopefully we  
5 will be able to monopolize some of the things 17:42:34  
6 that are going to happen in the Village this year  
7 with the big dig and those other things. Ms.  
8 Burke-Jones.

9 MS. BURKE-JONES: Thank you. So all  
10 communities in Ohio now are going onto an annual 17:42:52  
11 basis of audits?

12 MS. COOKS: No. No.

13 MS. BURKE-JONES: But we are?

14 MS. COOKS: We are.

15 MS. BURKE-JONES: Okay. 17:43:03

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: First of all, the  
17 audits that Diana has conducted or been involved  
18 with were not when she was the Fiscal Officer.

19 MS. BURKE-JONES: I understand that.

20 MAYOR LICASTRO: She's doing this for 17:43:16  
21 other people that were in charge. She's now in  
22 charge. And coming up with documents over a  
23 two-year period by definition is a lot harder  
24 than coming up with documents for a one-year  
25 period. So it's easier to do. It leads to more 17:43:28

1 accuracy. She's had guidelines from the auditors  
2 on how to pre-collect, if you will, or segregate  
3 these documents so they're more easily  
4 obtainable. So it's just something that will  
5 make her life a lot easier, which is why she  
6 agreed to it. I don't think Council disagrees  
7 with that.

17:43:40

8 MS. BURKE-JONES: Thank you.

9 MS. COOKS: And to add to that, when we  
10 met with the auditors, one of the things at the  
11 time that we were talking about was a bond issue.  
12 And although that was defeated and, you know,  
13 it's under Council's authority what happens next,  
14 but what the Fiscal Officer's going to try to do  
15 is moving to a one-year audit helps have fresh  
16 information so that people who are interested in  
17 buying bonds or notes from the Village will have  
18 not audited information from two years ago or  
19 three years ago. They will have fresh  
20 information that they can use to determine  
21 whether or not they are going to buy our product.

17:43:50

17:44:13

17:44:38

22 MS. BURKE-JONES: That sounds good.  
23 Thank you.

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: So if I may, Mr.  
25 McDonald.

17:44:48

1 MR. McDONALD: Certainly.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: As we talk about  
3 suggestions made by Ryan Callender, our bond  
4 counsel, our bond rating is really important  
5 going forward. So I think keeping that in focus 17:44:58  
6 is a really wise choice by Ms. Cooks and a yearly  
7 audit makes that so much easier.

8 MR. McDONALD: Everything she says makes  
9 a lot of sense.

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you, Ms. Cooks. 17:45:12

11 MS. COOKS: Thank you.

12 MR. McDONALD: So we would like to  
13 introduce the Resolution Number 1283, a  
14 Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a  
15 management consulting agreement with Clemans 17:45:25  
16 Nelson & Associates for the management and/or  
17 fiscal consulting services in labor, employment  
18 and other areas as might be requested for a  
19 period of January 1, 2023, through December 31,  
20 2023, and declaring an emergency. 17:45:45

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: If I may offer some  
22 insight. I sent you a late email on this.  
23 Clemans Nelson has been our HR consultant for a  
24 number of years. There are slight changes in  
25 their rates. Their monthly retainer is \$175. 17:45:58

1 They've offered to keep that the same even though  
2 their new current rate is \$250. There are  
3 increases in hourly rates, which we rarely use.  
4 We almost always use Robin Bell, but a consultant  
5 analyst was \$110 an hour. They're recommending 17:46:17  
6 it go to 160. A senior consultant was 150. They  
7 want to increase that to 170. A manager was 165.  
8 They want to increase that to 180. The director  
9 and vice president or president involvement was  
10 175. They want to increase that \$20 an hour to 17:46:33  
11 195. Other than that, everything is the same.

12 Ms. Huffman, you made reference to more  
13 detail. I have a voluminous document I will send  
14 to you for you to review of what's involved, what  
15 services they offer. I've given them to you in 17:46:48  
16 the past, but I'll send them to you again. It's  
17 only about 30 pages.

18 MS. HUFFMAN: Well, just so everybody  
19 understands, similarly like we get other  
20 agreements, the scope of work is often outlined 17:47:00  
21 for specific things. And I just feel more  
22 comfortable with seeing those certain things that  
23 fall under Clemans Nelson's larger claim of what  
24 they will do in the agreement.

25 MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah. And it's the 17:47:17

1 same as it was last year, but I'd be glad to  
2 forward that to you, to everybody.

3 MS. HUFFMAN: So in the spirit of things  
4 changing, more costs becoming apparent for  
5 services rendered, I think we, too, should look 17:47:29  
6 at what is being offered to see if it should be  
7 modified. And I'm not talking about anything  
8 big, but if there were other things that we had a  
9 need for, those could be spelled out more  
10 specifically in what they're offering in their 17:47:47  
11 scope of work, except in as a difference from  
12 what it says. It says labor, employment, it's  
13 kind of broad, so some specific things that can  
14 be addressed, that will serve us.

15 MAYOR LICASTRO: So if I may, Mr. 17:48:07  
16 McDonald, I would recommend we renew the  
17 contract. We need them on a regular basis. And  
18 we can tweak it going forward. We'll always have  
19 that capability.

20 MS. HUFFMAN: As long as we do it. 17:48:19

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: I'll send you what we  
22 have, let's start with that, and figure out how  
23 it should be changed. Thank you.

24 MR. McDONALD: Entertain a motion to  
25 move for suspension. 17:48:30

1 MR. YONCHAK: I have one thing with  
2 this. Along with this, can I make a  
3 recommendation if this is the company that does  
4 it, will we have conversations about developing  
5 employee policies? You know, if this is the  
6 company we request, I don't think we do a request  
7 for a proposal or if we're going to ask for a  
8 statement of work from them, you know, to propose  
9 this type of work, because it's something that we  
10 should get on immediately.

17:48:40

17:48:52

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: We have started that  
12 process. We need to complete it and we will.

13 MR. McDONALD: Mr. Yonchak, he's not on  
14 Finance Committee.

15 MR. YONCHAK: No.

17:49:03

16 MR. McDONALD: I will entertain a motion  
17 to approve Resolution Number 1283 for suspension.

18 MS. HOEFLING: So move.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: Just recommend it to  
20 Council.

17:49:16

21 MR. BENJAMIN: Second.

22 MR. McDONALD: All in favor?

23 Ayes: 3. Nays: 0.

24 MR. McDONALD: Entertain a motion to  
25 move for approval of Resolution 1283 and for

17:49:24

1 1283 --

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: 1284. When you're done  
3 with 83, you'll submit it to Council, we're done  
4 for that, but if you could go to 1284.

5 MR. McDONALD: Okay. Entertain a motion 17:49:42  
6 to -- entertain a motion for Resolution Number  
7 1284, a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to renew  
8 a Village architect service agreement with Van  
9 Auken Akins Architects, LLC for the architect and  
10 related service to increase the hourly rate and 17:50:05  
11 declaring an emergency. Entertain a second.

12 MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah, you're just  
13 making a recommendation. So may I interject?

14 MR. McDONALD: Yes, you may.

15 MAYOR LICASTRO: So we have the new 17:50:18  
16 owner of Van Auken Akins as of today.

17 MR. DEWEY: As of yesterday.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: Jill will stay for an  
19 additional year. Can you talk about the nature  
20 of your contract and the increase you're asking 17:50:30  
21 for.

22 MR. DEWEY: I know in the years past  
23 we've done a lot of different services.

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: Why don't you identify  
25 yourself. 17:50:38

1 MR. DEWEY: My name is Christopher  
2 Dewey. I'm president and CEO of Van Auken Akins  
3 Architects as of yesterday as you mentioned.

4 So we've done a lot of different  
5 services over the years for the community. We 17:50:47  
6 were involved early on with the service center.  
7 The most recent work we've done hourly work that  
8 involved energy efficiency and safety priorities.  
9 We've done some ADA assessments. And we've also  
10 done some feasibility assessments for the 17:51:00  
11 community center.

12 Everything has been done on an hourly  
13 basis. I don't think we've had an hourly  
14 increase for a couple years. Because of COVID,  
15 we've left everything consistent. We asked this 17:51:09  
16 year, I think we've asked for a \$5 increase per  
17 salary for the different levels that we outline  
18 as part of our contract.

19 That's still not where we're at with  
20 some of our other clients that we continue the 17:51:22  
21 annual increases, but we're requesting that  
22 modest increase this year with the approval.

23 MAYOR LICASTRO: Any questions for the  
24 gentleman?

25 MR. McDONALD: Any questions? I move 17:51:35



1 approval of Resolution Number 1284 on suspension.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Just make a  
3 recommendation to send it to Council with their  
4 approval.

5 MR. McDONALD: So move. 17:51:50

6 MS. HOEFLING: So move.

7 MR. BENJAMIN: Second.

8 MR. McDONALD: All in favor?

9 Ayes: 3. Nays: 0.

10 MR. McDONALD: Okay. Introduce a motion 17:51:58  
11 for Ordinance Number 4172, an Ordinance amending  
12 ordinance numbers 3294, 3650, and 3949 to update  
13 the hourly rates charged by Chagrin Valley  
14 Engineering, Limited for Village engineer  
15 services and declaring an emergency. 17:52:18

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Mr. Bierut is here to  
17 speak to that, if you don't mind.

18 MR. McDONALD: Very good.

19 MR. BIERUT: Good evening. I can do  
20 that and thank you for the opportunity. To the 17:52:27  
21 rates, we're currently operating on rates  
22 established in 2018, which are five years old  
23 already by this time. I think each discipline  
24 has gone up -- the average is about 3.5 percent  
25 per year since 2018. That's how we got to the 17:52:43

1 '23 rates that are before you.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: For anyone that's not  
3 aware, our interaction with Mr. Bierut is pretty  
4 much on a daily basis. The firm is well  
5 respected and he and his firm give us great  
6 service and we're very appreciative. The first  
7 increase in five years I think is reasonable, but  
8 it's for them to determine.

17:53:00

9 MR. BIERUT: I understand that. Thank  
10 you for the kind words. The majority of what we  
11 do is on the retainer to begin with. It's almost  
12 not a project -- it is on a project by project  
13 basis and we're all familiar with the project,  
14 the road program, catch basin, that kind of  
15 thing.

17:53:11

17:53:26

16 MR. BENJAMIN: This is very consistent  
17 with other communities for their municipalities.

18 MR. McDONALD: Any other questions?  
19 Entertain a motion to approve Ordinance Number  
20 4172.

17:53:44

21 MS. HOEFLING: So move.

22 MR. BENJAMIN: To move to the committee  
23 -- to the Council.

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: To recommend it.

25 MR. BENJAMIN: To recommend it to

17:53:51

1 Council. Second.

2 MR. McDONALD: All in favor?

3 Ayes: 3. Nays: 0.

4 MR. McDONALD: I entertain a motion to  
5 -- I would like to put forth a motion to approve 17:54:09  
6 Ordinance Number 4174 and declaring an emergency  
7 for suspension. And I would move the approval of  
8 Ordinance Number 4174 for approval to recommend  
9 to Council.

10 MS. HOEFLING: So move. 17:54:30

11 MR. BENJAMIN: Second.

12 MR. McDONALD: Moved and seconded. All  
13 in favor.

14 Ayes: 3. Nays: 0.

15 MAYOR LICASTRO: Do you want any detail 17:54:36  
16 on that?

17 MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah. These are the  
18 rates. I went through there with a calculator.  
19 These are the rates that we had discussed during  
20 the budget hearings. 17:54:45

21 MS. COOKS: Yes.

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: Please.

23 MS. COOKS: And additionally, you may  
24 recall the almost nightmare I had with the  
25 auditors and what ordinances were with what 17:54:56

1 department. And the Law Department and I have  
2 come up with this incorporated document that each  
3 year will be put in the form of legislation so  
4 that when the auditors come, I can just hand them  
5 one document and I don't have to say, okay, I  
6 have four different documents that you need to  
7 refer to. That's the gist of this document.

17:55:21

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's a consolidation  
9 and puts it all in that document, easy to read,  
10 easy to access.

17:55:36

11 MR. McDONALD: I believe that's all we  
12 need. Pay claims is in the --

13 MAYOR LICASTRO: Pay claims is next, but  
14 you need to make a recommendation for this. I  
15 don't think you've done that yet.

17:55:49

16 MR. McDONALD: Excuse me. I recommend  
17 that we approve the Ordinance for 4178.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: 4174?

19 MS. HOEFLING: 4174.

20 MR. McDONALD: 4174.

17:56:01

21 MR. BENJAMIN: Second.

22 MR. McDONALD: So move?

23 MS. HOEFLING: Yes. Second.

24 MR. McDONALD: All in favor?

25 Ayes: 3. Nays: 0.

17:56:18

1 MR. McDONALD: Very good. Do we need to  
2 do pay claims?

3 MS. HOEFLING: Yes.

4 MR. McDONALD: I move approval of  
5 Ordinance Number 4175 to approve.

17:56:27

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: 76.

7 MR. McDONALD: It says 75 right here.

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: I have 76.

9 MS. COOKS: So I sent out a subsequent  
10 email to everyone. Later on in -- we're going to  
11 ask for a motion to add two documents to  
12 Council's agenda, which were updates to the code.

17:56:43

13 And there was a little -- I usually use the last  
14 ordinance number for pay claims. And there was  
15 just a little confusion, so the document that was  
16 75, that Mr. Matty indicated we change that to  
17 77. So it is still 75.

17:57:13

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. My  
19 apologies.

20 MR. McDONALD: Okay.

17:57:30

21 MS. COOKS: One more thing, Mr.  
22 McDonald. I did not get on to pay claims an  
23 invoice that I got from Mr. Bierut for the catch  
24 basins and road repair from CA Agresta. I have  
25 on the official Ordinance included it, but I will

17:57:54

1 ask that Finance make a recommendation that it be  
2 added to pay claims for the total amount of pay  
3 claims.

4 MR. McDONALD: We need to do that before  
5 we vote on that. So I'm showing 99,825. 17:58:11

6 MS. COOKS: So the amount of the invoice  
7 is \$24,649. That brings pay claims to  
8 \$124,474.92.

9 MR. McDONALD: Okay. I would make a  
10 recommendation to approve -- 17:58:37

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: Are there any questions  
12 on pay claims, sir?

13 MR. McDONALD: Excuse me.

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: Any questions?

15 MS. HOEFLING: No. 17:58:44

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Anyone on Council?

17 MR. McDONALD: Yes, Ms. Burke-Jones.

18 MS. BURKE-JONES: Yes, I was interested  
19 in under administration the Welcoming Week  
20 Sponsorship Global Cleveland, can you explain 17:58:51  
21 that?

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah, Global -- Keith  
23 knows all about Global Cleveland, that's sort of  
24 your thing.

25 MR. BENJAMIN: Um-hum. 17:59:00

1           MAYOR LICASTRO: Why don't you explain,  
2 Keith.

3           MR. BENJAMIN: Global Cleveland, I  
4 wasn't at the event, but they solicit  
5 sponsorships from villages, cities, 17:59:09  
6 municipalities. And the funds go to assist with  
7 Global Cleveland's mission and efforts to bring  
8 people to Cleveland, to host immigrant  
9 populations, to make sure that their health,  
10 safety and welfare is taken care of for lodging, 17:59:29  
11 jobs, community development.

12           MS. BURKE-JONES: So this is the first  
13 year we've done this.

14           MAYOR LICASTRO: In October, Council  
15 made a motion to approve \$1,000 for this 17:59:41  
16 organization. The invoice just came in.

17           MS. BURKE-JONES: Is this the first year  
18 we've done this?

19           MS. COOKS: I believe so.

20           MAYOR LICASTRO: I think so. 17:59:48

21           MS. BURKE-JONES: I don't remember doing  
22 it in prior years.

23           MAYOR LICASTRO: It promotes Cleveland  
24 on a global scale.

25           MS. BURKE-JONES: Yeah, I was interested 17:59:57

1 in exactly what it was, because it looked  
2 interesting.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: But we asked for a  
4 motion to approve this in October, but the  
5 invoice just came in. 18:00:02

6 MR. McDONALD: Okay. I recommend the  
7 approval of Ordinance --

8 MR. BENJAMIN: I'm sorry, what was the  
9 total amount again, the new total amount?

10 MR. McDONALD: 124,474.92. 18:00:15

11 MR. BENJAMIN: Thank you very much.

12 MR. McDONALD: And the Ordinance number,  
13 did it get altered?

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's there, 75.

15 MR. McDONALD: 4175 in the amount of 18:00:30  
16 \$124,474.92?

17 MS. HOEFLING: So move.

18 MR. BENJAMIN: Second.

19 MR. McDONALD: All in favor?

20 Ayes: 3. Nays: 0. 18:00:43

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: Mr. Yonchak.

22 MR. YONCHAK: Since we're done with pay  
23 claims, I'd like to bring up an issue about the  
24 Recreation Committee. And I know you're all well  
25 informed about this and I learned a lot about it 18:00:53



1 in this whole process.

2 The Rec Committee me on December 7th  
3 before Christmas and expressed concern about its  
4 funding running out in 2024. Okay. They decided  
5 they have a meeting the first week of the month,  
6 but they also had a meeting on the 11th and  
7 thoroughly went through the programs and went  
8 through the old levies and proposed that we  
9 consider that recreation -- it consider to put  
10 the rec levy on the ballot in May for renewal, as  
11 a new levy.

18:01:08

18:01:31

12 The rec levy was mistaken that they just  
13 can't ask for this. It either has to be asked  
14 for by the Mayor, the Clerk of Courts or a  
15 Committee of Council. I'm a liaison. The Rec  
16 Committee is not a committee of Council. The  
17 Finance Committee is.

18:01:45

18 I'd like the Finance Committee to  
19 consider that this rec levy before it was not  
20 renewed and it was not -- there was objection to  
21 it. I thought it should be renewed. This levy  
22 has been in place for I know at least 10 years  
23 and maybe 20. This levy handles programs. The  
24 programs that this levy has are detailed in the  
25 budget and the costs are detailed in the budget.

18:02:02

18:02:23

1           The only other things is basic  
2 maintenance for its recreational facilities. Of  
3 that basic maintenance, \$27,000 is what it costs  
4 annually for the utilities in this facility.

5 This is a program levy. And we need 18:02:43  
6 consideration, because we have an operational  
7 level that's going to be put on the ballot in  
8 November that needs to be passed, and I think  
9 this needs to be passed, and needs to be  
10 considered by Council. 18:03:01

11           I do think that -- and also I have been  
12 informed that if a Finance Committee approves a  
13 committee of Council, could be Committee of the  
14 Whole, if they approve putting this rec levy on,  
15 we need to have a special meeting before the end 18:03:18  
16 of January to vote on it.

17           So with that, I'd like to request that  
18 the Finance Committee recommend that the renewal  
19 of the rec levy be put on the May ballot and that  
20 they recommend a special meeting of Council be 18:03:37  
21 held before the end of the month to approve that  
22 levy on the ballot. Thank you.

23           MAYOR LICASTRO: Let me offer something  
24 as far as process. So if you did decide to do  
25 this, it would not be a renewal level, it would 18:03:53

1 be a new levy and you'd have to have two  
2 meetings. First, to get the county to attest and  
3 secondly to get it on the ballot. But for sake  
4 of conversation, I was just handed a document by  
5 Ms. Cooks that shows the fund balance for  
6 Recreation as of the end of December is  
7 \$214,079.97.

18:04:08

8 MR. McDONALD: Does that mitigate the  
9 need for this?

10 MS. COOKS: I would say at least this  
11 year.

18:04:25

12 MR. BENJAMIN: Just as a point of order,  
13 would it be better to have this conversation in  
14 the Committee of the Whole so that all members of  
15 Council can equally contribute and have this  
16 conversation instead of just the Finance  
17 Committee?

18:04:37

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: I don't think we  
19 should -- if anyone wants to weigh in, let's not  
20 be formal about it.

18:04:46

21 MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah, but they don't get  
22 a vote.

23 MAYOR LICASTRO: Well, it would have to  
24 be voted on by Council. So Mr. Yonchak is  
25 correct, myself or the clerk would have to ask

18:04:54

1 for this action. We do not intend to do that.  
2 My opinion, I think we need to leave the ballot  
3 box clean until November when we have to pass the  
4 operating levy.

5 I think that we spent 18 months talking 18:05:09  
6 about the tax initiative for the police  
7 department. It failed. It's not 18 days before  
8 February 1. So I think it's rushed. I think we  
9 have money in the bank, which would make it a  
10 harder sell. If that money should last well into 18:05:24  
11 '24, if need be we can take money out of the  
12 general fund. I personally would not -- I didn't  
13 take the action purposely, because I think going  
14 to the ballot in May on this is a rushed process.

15 We're having an ad hoc committee to talk 18:05:40  
16 about the future of the building, which it met  
17 last week. It will meet again in February. I  
18 would not take the action if I was one of three  
19 entities that could and Ms. Cooks at this time  
20 will not take the action herself. Therefore, 18:05:52  
21 it's up to the Committee of Council with input  
22 from your colleagues.

23 MR. BENJAMIN: I just want to make sure  
24 that putting a levy on the ballot is a discussion  
25 that all Council members should have a voice in. 18:06:03

1 So I just want to make sure that that's  
2 happening.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: Everyone has a voice.

4 MS. HUFFMAN: Can I say something?

5 MAYOR LICASTRO: Let's be less formal 18:06:19  
6 about it. With your permission, sir.

7 MR. McDONALD: Absolutely.

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: Anyone can weigh in on  
9 it. It's too important to have only three  
10 members, no offense, discuss it, so let's discuss 18:06:29  
11 it. Ms. Huffman.

12 MS. HUFFMAN: If I'm understanding  
13 correctly your position, Bob, is to ask the  
14 Finance Committee to bring this to Council. And  
15 I think Keith is right, if we all had to speak on 18:06:42  
16 what we think we should do going forward, this is  
17 what I would say. It got from that process to a  
18 Committee of the Whole. And I was giving my  
19 opinion. And mine would be that I feel compelled  
20 to focus more so on making sure that the 18:07:02  
21 operating levy is secure.

22 And I do also think that this discussion  
23 is about this building. It's time to come to a  
24 conclusion about this building. I do think that  
25 the Council was thoughtful in making sure there 18:07:19

1 was enough funding for the next two years to  
2 carry this building. I believe that. I  
3 supported that. If I had not felt that there was  
4 funding available to carry this building and its  
5 programs, then I may have come to another  
6 conclusion, but I do think we have enough money  
7 to carry the programs for this building.

18:07:40

8           And I don't think it's shortsighted. I  
9 think we have to have a larger discussion about  
10 what's going to happen to this building. If  
11 we're keeping this building, are we renovating  
12 this building? What are we doing? Because right  
13 now the funding that's available takes care of  
14 what's happening. And I don't want to throw bad  
15 money after bad.

18:07:53

18:08:11

16           We have had residents talk about things  
17 that they see are occurring with this building.  
18 And I have said it out of my mouth if that is the  
19 case and we have a bad boiler, if our roof and  
20 soffits are leaking, you know, if we have an  
21 issue getting a decision back about ADA, if all  
22 of this is occurring, then why not just close the  
23 building, but I don't think anybody wants to do  
24 that.

18:08:26

25           So I think the middle of the road is a

18:08:42

1 decent middle of the road. We have funding to  
2 keep this building open, to keep the programs  
3 going, but it's time for everybody to roll up  
4 their sleeves to figure out what the next phase  
5 and the next level of what's going to happen with  
6 this building. And so that's just my opinion.

18:08:57

7 MR. McDONALD: And you indicated that  
8 the money that is there now would carry it for  
9 two years?

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: I think Ms. Cooks and I  
11 have projected it would carry us well into '24.  
12 If we need additional monies, there's monies  
13 available in the general fund. We'd have to find  
14 them. But for a levy that brings in about  
15 \$140,000 a year on average, we have \$214,000 in  
16 the bank. So two years would be 280, we have 214  
17 in hand.

18:09:08

18:09:20

18 Now, there's no additional revenue for  
19 this coming in from the levy. The levy has  
20 expired, but to Ms. Huffman's point, I am  
21 determined with the ad hoc committee to come up  
22 with a definitive recommendation on the future of  
23 this building. Do we keep it? Do we update it?  
24 Do we tear it down? And Mr. Yonchak is on the  
25 committee. We have six, seven or eight, we had

18:09:35

18:09:53

1 our first meeting, we will meet again in  
2 February. I, again, firstly think we need to  
3 figure that out before we put something else on  
4 the ballot. I'm just offering my opinion.

5 MR. McDONALD: I agree with that 18:10:07  
6 sentiment. I don't know why we would commit that  
7 amount of money to something that we don't even  
8 know is going to be here.

9 MR. YONCHAK: I think you're right, but  
10 you're mixing things up. This levy is not about 18:10:22  
11 the building. This levy is -- it's a very, very  
12 small part. This levy is about programs. It's  
13 about Bratenahl Days. It's about fireworks.  
14 It's about the Christmas party. It's about these  
15 things that make this community special and are 18:10:44  
16 very valuable to a community as a whole that  
17 influence people moving here. There are more  
18 families moving here. The demographics of this  
19 community is changing.

20 Let's face it, the older community who 18:11:01  
21 have lived here forever are either, God rest them  
22 in their peace, are dying or selling and reducing  
23 in size to another place, into a different type  
24 of living environment. These programs indirectly  
25 affect all of your home values. This is not 18:11:21



1 about a building. And I'm done.

2 MR. McDONALD: Is the money that we have  
3 been talking about, what's there now.

4 MR. YONCHAK: Programs.

5 MR. McDONALD: Okay. We're not talking 18:11:33  
6 about the building.

7 MR. YONCHAK: No, don't talk about the  
8 building, except for \$27,000 a year for utilities  
9 and basic maintenance to all recreation  
10 facilities. It's programs. 18:11:43

11 MR. McDONALD: My mistake. We're voting  
12 on supporting the programs.

13 MR. YONCHAK: Programs in 2024.  
14 Starting in 2024. Nothing this year. Putting it  
15 on the ballot this year and that's what we're 18:11:56  
16 voting on and I'm for it.

17 MR. McDONALD: It has to go on the  
18 ballot.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: Well, that's what  
20 you're about to decide. Right now nothing is on 18:12:02  
21 the May ballot. Nothing is on the November  
22 ballot, but I think it's Council desire to have  
23 the foresight to put the operating on in November  
24 is a no-brainer. We need to have that. Nobody  
25 is debating that. The question is do you put an 18:12:15

1 operating levy on, a new levy on for recreation  
2 programming in May of this year? That's what's  
3 Mr. Yonchak is asking you to consider.

4 Now, understand that the old one was  
5 1.5. I think if you do consider it, is that the 18:12:35  
6 right amount? Should it be one? Should it be --  
7 Keith.

8 MR. BENJAMIN: And that's fine. I think  
9 I brought this up previously. Is the Village too  
10 big? Can it be reduced to decrease residential 18:12:46  
11 tax burden? Is it too small? I think I had  
12 brought up and requested that the Recreation  
13 Commission look at a master plan, engage our  
14 residents, you know, will they support a larger  
15 levy that provides new programs, new amenities, 18:13:06  
16 new facilities?

17 This community, as Councilman Yonchak  
18 stated, has changed a lot in the last 10 years.  
19 There are a lot more youth. Do we have the  
20 amenities that parents and youth want in our 18:13:21  
21 community? Do we have the amenities that older  
22 adults want? I'm building a park right now in  
23 another city. I'm putting in sand volleyball and  
24 bocce ball courts and horseshoe pits and  
25 Pickleball courts and all these other things. 18:13:37

1 Newer items that the community now wants.

2           So, you know, I guess my feeling on this  
3 is that is it -- until we go out and we ask the  
4 community what is it that you want, what are your  
5 needs? What is the plan? Does it make sense to 18:14:01  
6 move forward with just putting something on and  
7 then not having the funds to do what we want to  
8 do necessarily, because if we're going to put a  
9 new levy on the ballot, we better do the research  
10 and make sure that we're not wasting tax payer 18:14:19  
11 dollars, that they're going toward what our  
12 residents want.

13           MR. McDONALD: When would the vote be if  
14 we did it right tonight?

15           MAYOR LICASTRO: So you have to attest 18:14:31  
16 to the ballot by February 1, which is two weeks  
17 plus away. You have to have a couple meetings to  
18 get that done. And I want to say something for  
19 the record. I've lived here longer than all of  
20 you, maybe all of you put together. The Rec 18:14:46  
21 Commission and the programs are very important.  
22 Absolutely. It brings the community together.

23           And if there were a much -- if there was  
24 a lot less in the fund, I would speak to the  
25 merit of doing this in a rushed manner in May, 18:15:00

1 but we have \$214,000 in there, which I think buys  
2 us time. Plus, my concern is we got destroyed in  
3 November for whatever reason. Going back to the  
4 ballot box in May, whenever we go back to the  
5 ballot box, we have to make sure it passes. And  
6 without a clear plan, general, as Keith mentioned  
7 going forward, with money still in the bank, I  
8 think whatever we do in May is going to be risky  
9 knowing we have to pass the renewal levy in  
10 November. I think that has to be a focus, but,  
11 again, I'm offering my opinion and maybe I'm  
12 saying too much.

18:15:18

18:15:33

13 Who else would like to speak on this?  
14 We'll conduct this sort of as a Committee of the  
15 Whole if you don't mind, Mr. McDonald.

18:15:45

16 MR. McDONALD: Certainly.

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: Anyone else want to  
18 weigh in on this?

19 MS. HOEFLING: I'd like to say something  
20 about it. I fully support the programs for the  
21 rec department. I think that they benefit the  
22 community very well, especially the younger  
23 families that we have moving in here. There are  
24 a lot of young children here. And I love seeing  
25 that. I loved the lemonade stand that was out

18:15:49

18:16:01

1 this summer on Lake Shore. It was really nice to  
2 see. And that's what a community is all about.  
3 But with the money that we have in the budget  
4 now, that will fund the programs that we have  
5 through 2023, and potentially into 2024, right,  
6 into the budget?

18:16:19

7 MR. YONCHAK: Until 2023 and potentially  
8 you have to remember the ballots go on in May and  
9 November.

10 MS. HOEFLING: Right. Understood.

18:16:31

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: We'll be able to fund  
12 this into '24.

13 MS. HOEFLING: Into '24. Plus we have  
14 the 600,000 carry-over.

15 MR. McDONALD: When will the next ballot  
16 be available?

18:16:41

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: It will be as Bob just  
18 said, in either May or November. You have a  
19 ballot in May of '23, a ballot in November of  
20 '23, a ballot in May of '24, and a ballot in  
21 November of '24. So it's May and November in  
22 Ohio, unless you have a special election. Keith.

18:16:50

23 MR. BENJAMIN: So if a ballot, if a levy  
24 went on, let's just say in May '24, and Diana is  
25 not here, she may have the answers.

18:17:07

1           MAYOR LICASTRO: The monies are  
2 available immediately.

3           MR. BENJAMIN: They're available  
4 immediately?

5           MAYOR LICASTRO: Yes. 18:17:13

6           MR. BENJAMIN: Okay. So we don't have  
7 to wait.

8           MAYOR LICASTRO: No. There's no lag  
9 time. The monies would be made available  
10 immediately. 18:17:19

11          MS. HOEFLING: With the carry-over that  
12 we have, to your point earlier about using monies  
13 from the general fund if there was a need to fund  
14 programs if we exceeded the 214 that we have in  
15 the budget, could we some of the almost 900,000,  
16 almost million dollars we have in the carry-over  
17 to fund that from the general fund? 18:17:31

18          MAYOR LICASTRO: 900,000. I wish it was  
19 9 million. 9 million sounds really good to me.  
20 Council has the ability to do pretty much 18:17:44  
21 whatever the heck they want. So could you use  
22 monies from the general fund if they're  
23 available? Absolutely. And I would strongly  
24 recommend we do that if we get to that point in  
25 time. But I think -- well, I've spoken my mind. 18:17:58

1 Anyone else?

2 MR. McDONALD: Ms. Burke-Jones.

3 MS. BURKE-JONES: Thank you. I agree  
4 with Keith. And the statement I remember you  
5 made when we discussed this in a committee 18:18:10  
6 meeting and why we originally postponed this  
7 decision, because we really don't know what our  
8 new program is going to be. And we may indeed  
9 need more money than the money that is identified  
10 that we are spending on programs. 18:18:29

11 So I think that given the money that we  
12 have, we may be able to vote on this in May of  
13 '24, after we've had some time to really look  
14 into the programs that we're really going to need  
15 and the cost that they would need to be provided. 18:18:48

16 MR. McDONALD: And we won't be putting  
17 recreation in a stranglehold so that they would  
18 have to stop programs --

19 MS. BURKE-JONES: Right.

20 MR. McDONALD: -- if we don't do it 18:18:59  
21 tonight.

22 MR. BENJAMIN: Right. I would never  
23 want to do that. I would never want to be in a  
24 situation where we're not funding these programs.  
25 They're critical to the community. 18:19:08

1 MR. McDONALD: Agreed.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah. You have to  
3 bring people together as a community. We don't  
4 have a school anymore and rec does exactly that.  
5 All right. 18:19:19

6 MS. HUFFMAN: I got one more thing.

7 MAYOR LICASTRO: Please, Gina.

8 MS. HUFFMAN: I don't want anybody to  
9 misunderstand or misinterpret where I'm coming  
10 from when I conflate the programs with the 18:19:30  
11 amenities, because at the end of the day, you  
12 need both. People come here and we are having a  
13 new crop of families come here. And although  
14 they will enjoy programs, they're coming for  
15 amenities. So that has to be addressed in some 18:19:48  
16 way or form or fashion.

17 So I am comfortable having the monies  
18 available for what we have right now, but we  
19 really have to roll our sleeves up to figure out  
20 what is going to become of this so that we can 18:20:02  
21 have our new programs run out of whatever this is  
22 going to be or wherever this is going to be. I  
23 fully support the Rec Commission and everyone who  
24 feels very passionate about what should happen  
25 with recreation, but I think that we got hard 18:20:21



1 choices to make and I think we can get it all  
2 done. It's just the order in which we get it  
3 done.

4 MR. McDONALD: And with the cushion that  
5 we have in place now, why we don't have the money  
6 available at some point in time. 18:20:31

7 MS. HUFFMAN: Exactly.

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: Mr. Yonchak, with all  
9 due courtesy, I think the mood of Council is to  
10 deny your request. Are you comfortable with  
11 that? 18:20:46

12 MR. YONCHAK: No. You're all free to do  
13 what you want. I would like you to respect it.  
14 And I can say verbally that you denied my request  
15 and I'd like that to go on the record for  
16 everybody. And I do think these committees of  
17 Council, the Mayor and the Clerk of Courts need  
18 to take this seriously, because the Rec  
19 Committee, who is the only one that has an eye on  
20 this, you know, is the one who has done the work  
21 and put this before Council where it is the  
22 job -- the only ones who can put it before are  
23 the Mayor, the Clerk of Courts and the committee  
24 of Council. And I believe that the Mayor, the  
25 Clerk of Courts and committee of Council should 18:21:27

1 bring everything, all tax levy considerations  
2 that are going to expire and make Council aware  
3 of them in a timely manner so that we can  
4 consider them.

5           And I also would like -- I'm sorry I'm 18:21:41  
6 speaking. I'd also like this Council to commit  
7 to these programs. And really, I mean, you're  
8 asking the rec levy, Keith, and, Joyce, to do a  
9 hard look at these programs and do these. It's  
10 the job of this Council. It's not the job of the 18:21:58  
11 committee that plans these events. It's the job  
12 of this Council.

13           MR. McDONALD: I am not --

14           MR. YONCHAK: We are passing the buck.

15           MR. McDONALD: I am not saying that I do 18:22:09  
16 not want to fund this going forward. And I will  
17 say right here tonight that when it runs out of  
18 money, that I will put it up.

19           MR. BENJAMIN: If we need to have two  
20 years of funds in the rec levy to fund Recreation 18:22:20  
21 Commission to make sure that we get through 2023  
22 and 2024, you know, I would make a motion that we  
23 consider legislation at the next Council meeting  
24 to add whatever average dollar amount that we  
25 spend per year, whatever we're spending this 18:22:38

1 year, make sure we have the same next year, let's  
2 allocate it and do it.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: So rather than having  
4 legislation, how about a motion to continue to  
5 support recreation at least through '24, until we  
6 figure out what else is due. 18:22:51

7 MR. BENJAMIN: At the amount generated  
8 by the levy.

9 MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah. So rather than  
10 have legislation that really pertains to 2024, a  
11 motion showing a commitment from all of Council  
12 to do so I think would be sufficient. 18:23:03

13 MR. McDONALD: You have my statement.

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: Are you okay with that?

15 MS. BURKE-JONES: Definitely. That's  
16 exactly where my mind was going. 18:23:12

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: Are you okay with that?

18 MR. YONCHAK: That's great.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: So let's save that  
20 motion for Council. And remind me if I forget  
21 we'll make that motion at Council to commit to  
22 funding the rec programs at least through '24.  
23 Okay? All right. Thank you. 18:23:18

24 Does that conclude your Finance  
25 Committee, sir? 18:23:33

1 MR. McDONALD: I believe it does.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Is there a question?

3 MS. MEADE: Yes, comment, question,  
4 regarding the rec levy. While going to the  
5 meetings and listening to everyone, I think the 18:23:44  
6 Rec Commission was recommending the 1.5 levy and  
7 in kind of the same language. I believe just  
8 like the Port Authority on this last ballot, you  
9 know, they wanted a certain amount and it  
10 wouldn't start until a certain year. 18:23:59

11 So the Rec Commission also felt, if I'm  
12 remembering correctly, that they didn't want the  
13 levy to kick in until 2024.

14 MR. YONCHAK: Correct.

15 MS. MEADE: So if it was put on May that 18:24:13  
16 the language could say would not start until  
17 2024, which would give that time for those monies  
18 to be spent. And as far as programming, there's  
19 nothing stopping, whether it's Council or Rec  
20 Commissioners or the public at large, at any time 18:24:30  
21 programs can change, be amended, adjusted based  
22 on the needs of the community. So I don't see  
23 that as a valid reason to stop and halt and not  
24 move forward on what's being recommended.

25 MR. McDONALD: The recommendation, I 18:24:45

1 don't believe has been to say let's do it in May.  
2 We can do it before what's there runs out and we  
3 can do it and it be on the ballot when we need it  
4 to.

5           MAYOR LICASTRO: The recommendation is 18:24:58  
6 to continue to fund rec through '24, but not to  
7 take Mr. Yonchak's suggestion to put a ballot on  
8 the -- an issue on the ballot in May. That's  
9 what we discussed.

10           MS. MEADE: But my point is I don't see 18:25:10  
11 the harm in putting it on this May's ballot with  
12 language for 1.5, which is the existing -- what  
13 it has been and saying it would not go into  
14 effect until 2024, which gets you the same thing.

15           MR. McDONALD: If I was going into the 18:25:25  
16 booth to vote, then I would say I wonder why  
17 they're doing it that way. We have money that's  
18 going to last it until there.

19           MS. MEADE: But it shows there won't be  
20 any kind of a gap. 18:25:40

21           MR. McDONALD: I gave my pledge.

22           MS. MEADE: With respect, all of you may  
23 not be here in a year or two years. If you make  
24 a pledge today, you may not run for re-election  
25 for whatever reason. 18:25:50

1           MR. McDONALD: I think I heard the whole  
2 Council made that pledge.

3           MS. MEADE: Again, they may not run for  
4 re-election, so that pledge may not be --

5           MAYOR LICASTRO: Only two chairs are  
6 open this year. 18:25:55

7           MS. MEADE: -- to be honored, which  
8 might change. And the other point is I can  
9 remember this Council when discussing the last  
10 bond issue saying let the people decide. So 18:26:05  
11 again, I think people are made aware and will be  
12 made aware of the November levy. And if this  
13 levy is put on the ballot for May, again there  
14 will be educational materials I'm sure regarding  
15 both, so the people can decide if they want it to 18:26:22  
16 continue.

17           And, again, if it's worded in such a way  
18 that that levy won't kick in until 2024, it  
19 should not negatively impact the November issue.  
20 November 2024 is a gap year. So I don't really 18:26:34  
21 see a downside to you honoring the request.

22           MAYOR LICASTRO: Ms. Meade, we  
23 appreciate your opinion. Putting ballot  
24 language, putting a new levy on the ballot and  
25 putting language in there that wasn't kick in 18:26:51

1 until '24, on a May '23 ballot, would do nothing  
2 but confuse people.

3 So thank you for your opinion. I think  
4 we've talked about this at length. So is there a  
5 motion to adjourn Finance? 18:27:01

6 MR. McDONALD: So move.

7 MS. HOEFLING: Second.

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: Roll call on  
9 adjournment, please. Just the three of you.

10 Ayes: 3. Nays: 0. 18:27:13

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: How about a two-minute  
12 break and we'll come back and start Council.  
13 Thank you.

14 (Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.)

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## CERTIFICATE

I, Nancy L. Molnar, do hereby certify that as such Reporter I took down in Stenotypy all of the proceedings had in the foregoing transcript; that I have transcribed my said Stenotype notes into typewritten form as appears in the foregoing transcript; that said transcript is the complete form of the proceedings had in said cause and constitutes a true and correct transcript therein.

*Nancy L. Molnar*

Nancy L. Molnar, Notary Public

within and for the State of Ohio

My commission expires July 15, 2023.