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Committee of the Whole [afternoon session]

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Agency: [Cleveland City Council](#)

Date: July 10, 2024

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Summary

- Council Member Richard Starr said there needs to be an effective process in place to address sidewalk damage from tree roots.
- Starr discussed the unbalance of salary for city employees within the same pay band (i.e., director of Port Control vs. director of Public Works).
- Starr said he has an MBA and joked that he would be willing to apply for the Port Control high-salary positions.

Follow-Up Questions

- Can the city provide resources (personnel, marketable salaries) to have all areas of Cleveland with sidewalk tree-root problems addressed?
- What can the city do to unilaterally and successfully build and improve city growth without negatively affecting nature and the environment? I think there would be less of an exploding wildlife population in the city if the city can successfully do this.

Notes

Council members: Joe Jones (Ward 1); Kevin Bishop (Ward 2); Kerry McCormack (Ward 3); Deborah Gray (Ward 4); Richard Starr (Ward 5); Council President Blaine Griffin (Ward 6); Stephanie Howse-Jones (Ward 7); Michael Polensek (Ward 8); Kevin Conwell (Ward 9); Anthony Hairston (Ward 10); Danny Kelly (Ward 11); Rebecca Maurer (Ward 12); Kris Harsh (Ward 13); Jasmin Santana (Ward 14); Jenny Spencer (Ward 15); Brian Kazy (Ward 16); Charles Slife (Ward 17)

468-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Port Control to enter into one or more contracts with AeroCloud System Inc. for the purpose of providing an automated airport gate scheduling and billing management software solution for the Common Use Airport Operations program, for the Department of Port Control, for a period of one-year, with five one-year options to renew, exercisable by the director of Port Control.

Sponsors: McCormack, Griffin and by departmental request

Bryant Francis, director of Port Control, and Assistant Director Dennis Kramer presented.

Approved.

483-2024 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION Providing for the reassessment of the cost of the services of the Ohio City-Cleveland Business Improvement District to correct an error in the benefitted parcel numbers; and declaring an emergency.

Sponsors: McCormack, Hairston, Griffin and by departmental request

Joyce Pan Huang, director of City Planning, presented. Switching a parcel that was a single-family house with a commercial property.

Approved.

521-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE To discontinue the Divisions of Recreation and Park Maintenance and Properties and the Office of Special Events and Marketing, by repealing various sections of Chapter 131, as amended and enacted by various ordinances; to amend Section 131.02 relating to the duties of the director of Public Works; to create the Department of Parks and Recreation; to enact new Sections 133.01 to Sections 133.46; and to amend various other sections of the codified ordinances, as amended and enacted by various ordinances, relating to the foregoing changes.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request.

Approved as amended.

582-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Capital Projects to issue a permit to BERGES, LLC to encroach into the public right-of-way of Follett Court by installing, using and maintaining a private sanitary sewer line and a private storm sewer line.

Sponsors: McCormack, Bishop, Hairston and by departmental request

Approved.

584-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Capital Projects to employ one or more professional consultants or one or more firms of consultants to perform various construction activities for roads, bridges and city facilities, not to exceed a total term of 30 months.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

An official from Capital Projects presented.

Approved as amended.

594-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Capital Projects to apply for and accept a grant from the United States Department of Transportation for the 2024 Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant; authorizing the director of Capital Projects, or appropriate director, to enter into contracts to implement the grant; determining the method of making the public improvement of constructing safety improvements on Lee Road, Lorain Avenue and East 93rd Street and through quick-build demonstration projects on Kinsman Road, Superior Avenue and Denison Avenue; authorizing contracts to make the improvement; to apply for and accept any gifts or grants from any public or private entity; authorizing the commissioner of Purchases and Supplies to acquire, accept and record real property and easements that are necessary for the improvement; and authorizing other agreements.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

Matt Moss, manager of Strategic Initiatives, presented. Moss said the project as planned will save the city money.

Approved.

612-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Public Works to execute one deed of permanent easement and two deeds of temporary easement granting to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District certain easement rights at several city-owned properties located along Belvoir Boulevard within NEORSD's Nine Mile Creek Debris Rack Project area and declaring the easement rights not needed for the city's public use.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

A Capital Projects official and Commissioner of Real Estate Susanne DeGennaro presented.

Approved.

619-2024 AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION Appointing an assessment equalization board to hear objections to estimated assessments with respect to improving Euclid Beach Boulevard (entire street) and E. 159th Street (from Euclid Beach Boulevard to Lakeside Avenue) by design, inspection, reconstructing, repairing and/or installing of roadways, sidewalks, driveway aprons, curbs (including adjustments of castings and landscaping, if necessary), storm sewer, storm sewer structures, and other necessary appurtenances, if necessary, encroaching upon the public right-of-way.

Sponsors: Polensek, Bishop, Hairston, Griffin and by departmental request

An official from Capital Projects presented.

Approved.

623-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Public Health to apply for and accept a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security for BioWatch Program; and authorizing the director to enter into various written standard purchase and requirement contracts for courier services needed to transport BioWatch samples to the Ohio Department of Health for testing.

Sponsors: Conwell, Griffin and by departmental request

Dr. David Margolius, director of Public Health, and two of his commissioners presented.

Approved.

625-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Port Control to exercise the first option to renew Contract No. CT 3001 NF2014-005 with Aircraft Services International Inc., dba Menzies Aviation, for professional services to manage and operate an airport-owned fuel storage and distribution facility known as the South Fuel Farm located at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

Sponsors: McCormack, Griffin and by departmental request

Francis and Kramer presented.

Approved.

627-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Port Control to lease certain office space located at Burke Lakefront Airport to conduct business as an architectural and engineering firm, for a term of one year, with three one-year options to renew, exercisable by the director of Port Control.

Sponsors: McCormack, Griffin and by departmental request

Francis and Kramer presented.

Approved.

629-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Port Control to make alterations and modifications in Contract No. PS 2023-71 with AvAir Pros Services, Inc. for improving the in-line baggage handling system at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

Sponsors: McCormack, Griffin and by departmental request

Francis and Kramer presented.

Approved.

633-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Public Works to enter into a license agreement with a vendor to install and maintain an automated teller machine terminal located in Room 122, Vital Statistics at Cleveland City Hall for the use and convenience of the general public, for a period of one year, with a one-year option to renew, exercisable by the director of Public Works.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

Frank Williams, director of Public Works, presented.

Approved.

634-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Human Resources

(HR) to employ one or more professional consultants to provide the professional services necessary to design, develop and deliver a comprehensive training program for departmental staff performing HR functions, for a term of one year with two one-year options to renew, exercisable by the director of HR.

Sponsors: Griffin and by departmental request

HR Director Matthew Cole said one of the main goals behind this ordinance is to centralize HR staff across City Hall and to standardize the city's HR policies.

Jones said he supports the ordinance but strongly recommends implementation of establishing a truly efficient HR process. Jones mentioned the cumbersome hiring process and asked why it takes three months to onboard a qualified new employee for animal control. Jones also asked the HR director if there is a plan in place to replace the outgoing chief financial officer.

Harsh asked the HR director why the department was seeking to hire HR consultants on how to perform their responsibilities. Harsh mentioned money being allocated to add HR software and asked about the progress of that. Cole said the process is moving along.

Conwell said there needs to be effective training of employees in order for current employees to be qualified and capable of filling higher-level vacated positions.

Approved as amended.

ORDINANCE 720-2024 Port Control

This would establish pay bands for positions in the Department of Port Control. For example, the secretary to the director could have a maximum salary of \$120,000, while an assistant director could have a maximum salary of \$215,000

McCormack asked for more description. Funds paying for the salaries will come from money made by the airlines. Kramer said their goal is to establish several assistant directors throughout Port Control.

Polensek said the city needs to do better filling positions, including Port Control, including positions at lower levels to the executive positions discussed herein.

McCormack said the city needs to do better with the civil service positions.

Hairston asked Port Control officials if any of the Port Control commissioners are planning to apply/fill these executive positions mentioned. Kramer said he does not know. Hairston said he takes issue that equivalent positions in other departments are not making equal salary. Hairston gave an example that the Public Works director has triple the workload and responsibilities than that of an assistant director of Port Control, yet the salary proposed for the assistant director of Port Control (\$215,000) is twice as much as the salary of the director of Public Works.

Approved.

640-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Authorizing the director of Finance to enter into various contracts for the Law Enforcement Records Management System, the Computer Aided Dispatch System, the Officer Intervention Program and to enter into various other contracts to implement this ordinance.

Sponsors: Polensek, Griffin and by departmental request

Patty Austin from the Law Department and Commissioner Jones presented. Austin said this ordinance is for professional services within the \$50,000 threshold. Commissioner Jones said they have three vendors established for these services.

Approved as amended.

Capital Projects

An official from Capital Projects presented. She said capital bonds are typically \$65 million per year. She said they are required to spend 80% of bonds per year.

641-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Determining the method of making the public improvement of designing and constructing or constructing, rehabilitating, renovating, replacing or otherwise improving cemeteries, including site improvements and appurtenances, and the West Park Cemetery Gate House; and authorizing the director of Public Works or Capital Projects, as appropriate, to enter into one or more public improvement contracts for the making of the improvements; enter into one or more professional services and other contracts needed to implement the improvement; to apply for and accept grants and gifts; and authorizing the direct employment of the necessary labor, for the Department of Public Works or the Office of Capital Projects.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

An official from Capital Projects presented.

Approved.

642-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Determining the method of making the public improvement of designing and constructing or constructing, rehabilitating, renovating, replacing or otherwise improving public facilities, buildings, and other similar structures, including site improvements and appurtenances; and authorizing the Director of Public Works or Capital Projects, as appropriate, to enter into one or more public improvement contracts for the making of the improvements; enter into one or more professional services and other contracts needed to implement the improvement; to apply for and accept grants and gifts; and authorizing the direct employment of the necessary labor, for the Department of Public Works or the Office of Capital Projects.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

An official from Capital Projects presented.

Approved.

643-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Determining the method of making the public improvement of designing and constructing, rehabilitating, renovating, replacing or otherwise improving recreation facilities, ancillary recreation buildings, parks and playgrounds, and other similar structures or amenities, on city-owned and city-leased park property, including site improvements and appurtenances; and authorizing the Director of Public Works or Capital Projects, as appropriate, to enter into one or more public improvement contracts for the making of the improvements; enter into one or more professional services and other contracts needed to implement the improvement; to apply for and accept grants and gifts; and authorizing the direct employment of the necessary labor, for the Department of Public Works or the Office of Capital Projects.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

An official from Capital Projects presented. \$11,838,500 to complete 12 projects throughout the city.

Approved.

644-2024 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE Determining the method of making the public improvement of designing and constructing or constructing, rehabilitating, renovating, replacing or otherwise improving roadways, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and other similar projects, including site improvements and appurtenances; and authorizing the director of Public Works or Capital Projects, as appropriate, to enter into one or more public improvement contracts for the making of the improvements; enter into one or more professional services and other contracts needed to implement the improvement; to apply for and accept grants and gifts; and authorizing the direct employment of the necessary labor, for the Department of Public Works or the Office of Capital Projects.

Sponsors: Bishop, Griffin and by departmental request

An official from Capital Projects presented.

Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. Chair relayed that the City Council meeting will begin in Council Chambers at 6:20 p.m.

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