

City of Independence, Ohio

"THE HEART OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY"

6800 BRECKSVILLE ROAD

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

(216) 524-4131

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz
Members of Council

From: Finance Director Vernon Blaze

Date: Friday, July 2, 2021

Re: Finance Department Updates

Capital Purchases/Infrastructure Projects/Real Estate Acquisition

The 2021 – 2025 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) lists **\$16,425,850** in Capital Purchases, Infrastructure Projects and Real Estate Acquisition that can be appropriated (funds allocated) in 2021 as follows:

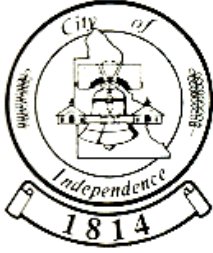
Capital Purchases	\$ 3,130,850
Infrastructure Projects	11,945,000
Real Estate Acquisition	<u>1,350,000</u>
Total	\$16,425,850

Through the first six months of 2021 dating back to late 2020 when legislation started being approved for purchases and projects noted on the 2021 – 2025 Five-Year CIP, Council has approved the following so far:

Capital Purchases and Infrastructure Projects	\$10,740,345
Capital Purchases and Infrastructure Projects that were not listed on the 2021 – 2025 Five- Year CIP	<u>604,170</u>
Total	\$11,344,515

Some of the larger purchases/projects approved for 2021 so far (Future for flood project) include:

Hillside (East) Sidewalks – DiGioia	Ordinance 2020-108	\$ 644,830
Upper Brookside Project – Fabrizi	Ordinance 2020-137	1,113,071
Concrete Maintenance Contract – Catts	Ordinance 2021-009	400,000
Rockside Road Resurfacing – E. of Breck.	Ordinance 2021-042	500,000
Cuy. River Flood Risk Mgmt. Project	Ordinance 2021-046	2,621,500
Asphalt Maint/Repair – Chagrin Valley	Ordinance 2021-066	1,644,675
Hillside (West) Sidewalks – Catts	Ordinance 2021-087	1,169,257



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Capital Purchases/Infrastructure Projects/Real Estate Acquisition Cont'd

Through good long-term land-use planning, fruitful economic development initiatives and strategic budgeting and financial planning, Independence has been able to devote significant financial resources for capital purchases, infrastructure projects and real estate acquisition over the years.

Proposed tax-law changes combined with alternative workplace arrangements may alter Independence's consistent tax revenue stream going forward. But if and until that happens, Independence can count its blessings and be thankful for the financial resources that it has been entrusted to be good stewards of.

Municipal Income Tax Law-Change Update

Ohio's Budget Bill (HB 110) was signed by Gov. DeWine earlier this week. Three important provisions relating to local income taxes included in it are:

- Employers can continue to withhold tax for the principal place of work municipality while employees are working remotely in other communities until December 31, 2021
- Employers are permitted to change an employee's principal place of work and adjust accordingly
- Employees will be able to receive "remote work/days out" refunds of tax withheld for the principal place of work municipality for tax year 2021

That's a start to come clarification on this issue, but more legislation and litigation is still likely before complete clarity is achieved and constitutionality is determined.

Interesting Tid-Bit

Bill Withers released the song "Ain't No Sunshine" in 1972. After writing the first two verses, he just couldn't think of lyrics for a third verse. So when he went to lay down some of the tracks, when it came to the third verse that he didn't have anything for, he just repeated the line "I know" 26 times. After listening to it, the decision was made to not try to write a third verse, and just leave the 26 "I know's" in. The song ended up reaching No. 3 on the charts!

Lesson? Oftentimes we think we have to be super creative and "deep" with our work, but sometimes we just have nothing more to give. Our brains and creativity are tapped out. We're fatigued. Our emotions might be frayed.

And that's ok at times. Sometimes just sticking with the basics will yield the desired results – saving that extra special burst of creativity for another day!



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