

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022**

CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 10:00 AM AND WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT PRO TEM MIKE RAY. ON A CALL OF THE ROLL, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RESPONDED TO THEIR NAMES: ANITA DAVIS, JIMMY HUGHES, LAUREN MCNALLY, JULIUS OLIVER, MIKE RAY, AND SAMANTHA TURNER. 6. BASIA ADAMCZAK AND TOM HETRICK WERE ABSENT. COUNCIL SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

**COMMUNICATION**

**COM-22-223** NOTICE OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2022. WAS READ AND UPON MOTION OF MS. DAVIS WAS RECEIVED AND FILED. CARRIED

**ORDINANCE**

**ORD-22-459** APPROPRIATING \$3,968,716.00 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUND, 2701.30\_5828, PURSUANT TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY GUIDANCE ON USING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FUNDS TO SUPPORT LOCAL EMS AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE AN EMERGENCY MEASURE IF IT RECEIVES THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF SIX MEMBERS OF COUNCIL; OTHERWISE, IT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE FROM AND AFTER THE EARLIEST PERIOD ALLOWED BY LAW. WAS READ THE FIRST TIME AND UPON MOTION OF MS. DAVIS THE RULES OF COUNCIL WERE SUSPENDED BY A VOTE OF YEAS, 6. NAYS, NONE.

**REMARKS**

COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY ASKED FOR A HISTORY ON HOW THIS NEW AMBULANCE COMPANY CAME ABOUT.

MAYOR BROWN ANSWERED THAT HE HAS BEEN ADAMANT ABOUT FINDING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO AMR, AND WE STARTED REACHING OUT TO OTHER CITIES. THE FIRE CHIEF DID HIS DUE DILIGENCE AND CAME ACROSS THIS COMPANY, AND FOUND OUT THEY ARE IN OPERATION IN WARREN.

CHIEF FINLEY STATED THAT KENNETH J. JOSEPH IS THE OWNER OF EMT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT, INC., AN AMBULANCE COMPANY WHICH OPERATES EMT IN WARREN, OHIO. KEN REACHED OUT TO HIM TWO THURSDAYS AGO, AND MENTIONED THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING EMS SERVICES

TO THE CITY. CHIEF FINLEY ASKED HIM WHY THEY DIDN'T APPLY DURING THE RFP PERIOD, AND FOUND OUT WE ONLY PUT THE RFP OUT LOCALLY, AND MR. JOSEPH STATED THAT HE WASN'T AWARE AS HE LIVES IN CARROLLTON COUNTY, BUT ASKED IF THERE WAS STILL TIME TO APPLY. THE LAW DEPARTMENT ADVISED THAT THEY STILL COULD APPLY. HE CAME DOWN TO RIDE AROUND THE CITY ON THAT SATURDAY, AND HE TOLD CHIEF FINLEY HE COULD PROVIDE SERVICES AND SOME NUMBERS ON THAT MONDAY. AMR IS THE LARGEST AMBULANCE COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY, BUT KEN JOSEPH'S EMT AMBULANCE COMPANY IS THE LARGEST IN OHIO. CHIEF FINLEY ASKED FIRE CHIEFS IN THE COMMUNITIES EMT SERVES AND THEY SAID EMT CAN DELIVER THE SERVICES NEEDED.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** ASKED WHAT DOES THE FIRE CHIEF MEAN WHEN HE SAID THAT WE ONLY PUT OUT THE RFP LOCALLY.

**CHIEF FINLEY** STATED THAT THE LAW DEPARTMENT TOLD HIM THEY ONLY PUT OUT RFP'S LOCALLY.

**ATTORNEY LIMBIAN** NOTED THAT THE STANDARD HAS BEEN TO PUT OUT RFP'S LOCALLY.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** STATED THAT WE ONLY PUT IT OUT LOCALLY, AND WE KNEW NONE OF THE LOCAL BUSINESSES WOULD RESPOND. SHE MENTIONED THAT FOR THE LICENSE AND TO OPERATE IN THE CITY, SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A LOCAL ADDRESS IN THE CITY.

**CHIEF FINLEY** NOTED THAT HE SPOKE WITH MERCY HEALTH, AND HE REACHED OUT TO ASK IF THEY CAN USE A BUILDING THAT HAS A STATION AND GARAGE ONE BLOCK UP FROM THE HOSPITAL, UNTIL THEY CAN GET A FOOTHOLD IN THE CITY. THE CFO OF MERCY HEALTH IS DRAWING UP A CONTRACT RIGHT NOW, IF EMT CANNOT GET THE BUILDING THAT AMR CURRENTLY HAS.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** POINTED OUT THAT WITH NEEDING TWO LICENSES, ONE FROM O.A.A. AND ONE FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL BOARD, AND WITH BEING 2 WEEKS AWAY FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 AND THE HOLIDAYS, WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE STATE GRANTING THOSE ESPECIALLY WITH THE PHARMACEUTICAL BOARD LICENSE, ACCORDING TO THEIR WEBSITE, TAKING 60 TO 90 DAYS.

**CHIEF FINLEY** NOTED THAT THE O.A.A. LICENSE IS ABLE TO BE HAD IN TWO WEEKS, AND THAT THE STATE PHARMACY BOARD KNOWS KEN JOSEPH AND HIS BUSINESS, AND HE ASSURES HIM THAT THOSE THINGS WILL NOT BE AN OBSTACLE.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** STATED THAT IN THE EVENT THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN, WHAT IS THE CONTINGENCY PLAN.

**CHIEF FINLEY** NOTED HE DOES NOT HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN, BUT HE DOES NOT THINK AMR IS STAYING HERE.

**ATTORNEY LIMBIAN** RESPONDED THAT THE CITY HAS A CONTINGENCY PLAN IN THE WORKS, BUT HE IS UNABLE TO DISCUSS THEM, BUT THERE WILL BE SERVICES WITH ANOTHER COMPANY IF NEEDED.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** ASKED IF MR. JOSEPH HAS REACHED OUT TO THE PHARMACY BOARD YET.

**MR. JOSEPH** ANSWERED THAT HE HAS NOT, BUT HE IS FAMILIAR WITH HOW THEY OPERATE, AND IF IT IS AN EXTENUATING SITUATION LIKE THIS, HE DOESN'T FORESEE ANY PROBLEM. IF IT IS A PROBLEM, THEY ARE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER A LICENSE IN AN AREA WHERE THEY STORE AMBULANCES, BUT DON'T USE THEM. HE COULD ALSO USE THE LICENSE IN WARREN THROUGH A PROCESS CALLED POSTING. THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO COVER THAT, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** NOTED SHE IS GRATEFUL THEY FOUND ANOTHER COMPANY. SHE CANNOT WRAP HER HEAD AROUND THE FACT THAT THE MAYOR IS CLOSE TO THE MAYOR IN WARREN, AND NEVER CAME UP WITH THIS OPTION, UNTIL CHIEF FINLEY FOUND THEM.

**MAYOR BROWN** STATED THAT HE DID REACH OUT TO MAYORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY AREAS, BUT HE DIDN'T NECESSARILY CALL EVERY ONE OF THEM. MANY OTHER MAYORS NOTED THEY ARE GOING THROUGH THE SAME ISSUES. HE IS ONLY ONE PERSON, AND THERE ARE SEVEN MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL, AND THEY HAVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNCILMEMBERS TOO.

**ATTORNEY LIMBIAN** STATED AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THAT, THE MAYOR TASKS HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH THE WORK OF FINDING, AND CHIEF FINLEY, MR. DURKIN, AND HIMSELF WERE TASKED WITH FINDING AMBULANCE SERVICES.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** NOTED SHE PUT A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT ON THIS ISSUE AND IT FELL ON DEAF EARS, SETTING UP MEETINGS, ETC... AND NOTHING WAS RESPONDED TO FROM THE ADMINISTRATION. SHE CAN SAY THAT AT LEAST SHE, AS A COUNCILPERSON, WORKED ON THE ISSUE.

**MAYOR BROWN** ASKED THAT THEY PUT THE PEOPLE FIRST AND LEAVE POLITICS OUT OF THIS.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** STATED THAT IF THE MAYOR GOES TO CONFERENCES BUT DOESN'T COME BACK WITH SOLUTIONS, PERHAPS HE SHOULD TASK HIS ADMINISTRATION WITH ATTENDING. THEN STATED SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT WE ARE GETTING FOUR (4) AMBULANCES AND QUESTIONED EMT RESPONSE TIMES VERSUS AMR.

**CHIEF FINLEY** NOTED THAT THE AMBULANCE PROBLEMS AND RESPONSE TIMES WE HAD WITH AMR, ARE THE SAME PROBLEM THAT THEY ARE HAVING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. HE HAS BEEN TASKED TO BE THE NEW EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES LIAISON BETWEEN THE HOSPITAL AND EMS TO TRY TO RECTIFY THIS SITUATION, BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. THE HOSPITAL HAS A STAFFING PROBLEM AND A BED SHORTAGE. INSURANCE KEEPS PEOPLE FROM MOVING FROM THE EMR INTO A BED. THE AMBULANCE CAN DUMP THE PATIENT LEGALLY ONCE THEY GET TO THE E.R., BUT THAT JUST BOTTLENECKS THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT. WE USED TO HAVE FOUR HOSPITALS, AND NOW WE ONLY HAVE ONE AND THAT ONE HOSPITAL IS THE ONLY LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTER IN THE TRI-COUNTY AREA.

**COUNCILMAN RAY** ADDED THAT THINGS LIKE THAT ARE BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, BUT IF THEY DON'T DELIVER SERVICES THAT IS WITHIN THEIR CONTROL, AND ASKED WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES.

**CHIEF FINLEY** STATED THERE IS A BREACH SECTION IN THE CONTRACT IF THEY DON'T LIVE UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** ASKED HOW MANY AMBULANCES DOES EMT RUN IN WARREN.

**MR. JOSEPH** ANSWERED FOUR (4) AMBULANCES AND SOMETIMES FIVE (5), AND THEY HAVE ENOUGH TO RUN 4 OR POSSIBLY 5 IN YOUNGSTOWN.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** STATED THAT EMT COMPANY WOULD GET A STIPEND IN YOUNGSTOWN, BUT DOES NOT IN WARREN, AND ASKED WHY HE COULDN'T DO SOMETHING SIMILAR TO WHAT HE DOES IN WARREN, OHIO.

**MR. JOSEPH** ANSWERED THAT THEY ARE CONTRACTED WITH ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN WARREN, SUCH AS NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORT WITH NURSING HOMES, ETC..., AND THEY HAVE BEEN IN WARREN 9 YEARS. THINGS ARE GETTING VERY TIGHT THERE THOUGH, PLUS THE LABOR MARKET HAS BROUGHT ABOUT HIGHER WAGES AND BETTER BENEFITS.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** ASKED WHAT CONSTITUTES A BREACH. IF THERE AREN'T FOUR (4) AMBULANCES AVAILABLE, IS THAT A BREACH.

**ATTORNEY LIMBIAN** STATED THAT A BREACH HE BELIEVES SPEAKS MAINLY TO RESPONSE TIMES, OR CLAIMS OF WRONGDOING OR MISFEASANCE OR MALFEASANCE ON INDIVIDUAL RUNS, AND THEY WOULD LOOK TO RESOLVE THOSE THROUGH ARBITRATION. ALL INDICATIONS FROM THIS COMPANY, IS THAT THEY DON'T BREACH.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION IF THEY ARE ON DOWNTIME, ARE THEY ALLOWED TO TAKE OUTSIDE CALLS, AS OPPOSED TO BEING ON STAND-BY FOR YOUNGSTOWN.

**MR. JOSEPH** ANSWERED THEY ARE PERMITTED TO TAKE NON-EMERGENCIES WHEN ON DOWN TIME. SO IF THE HOSPITAL CANNOT TAKE MORE PATIENTS BECAUSE THEY ARE FULL, THEY CAN HELP TRANSPORT THOSE PATIENTS OUT, AND THEY'D PROBABLY HELP WITH THAT. FOUR (4) AMBULANCES IS THE BEST NUMBER FOR THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN BASED ON THE POPULATION, GEOGRAPHY AND PRESENT CALL VOLUME.

**COUNCILMAN HUGHES** ASKED IF THEY HAVE HAD ANY DISCUSSIONS OR AGREEMENTS WITH AMR ABOUT A JOINT VENTURE OR REGARDING SERVICE.

**MR. JOSEPH** STATED THERE WERE NO DISCUSSIONS ABOUT JOINING FORCES. HE HAD SOME BRIEF DISCUSSIONS IN REGARDS TO A LOCATION THEY LEASE AND SOME OF THEIR EMPLOYEES, BUT NO DISCUSSIONS AS FAR AS WORKING TOGETHER.

**COUNCILMAN HUGHES** ASKED IF THEY ARE THE LARGEST AMBULANCE COMPANY IN THE STATE.

**MR. JOSEPH** REPLIED THAT GEOGRAPHICALLY AND BASED ON NUMBER OF CALLS, HE BELIEVES HIS AMBULANCE SERVICE IS THE LARGEST OR AT THE VERY LEAST, SECOND LARGEST IN THE STATE.

**COUNCILMAN HUGHES** STATED THAT WITH ALL OF THE PRESS COVERAGE REGARDING THE AMBULANCE SERVICE ISSUES, HOW DID YOU HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN LOOKING FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE.

**MR. JOSEPH** STATED HE KNEW THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS IN YOUNGSTOWN, BUT HAD NO IDEA THAT THEY WERE BECOMING UNFRIENDLY CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, AND DIDN'T KNOW IT HAD GOTTEN TO THE POINT ABOUT AN RFP GOING OUT. HE RECEIVED FACEBOOK MESSAGES ABOUT IT. WHEN BARRY FINLEY FIRST BECAME FIRE CHIEF, HE ACTUALLY CAME UP TO VISIT WITH HIM,

AS HE HAD INTEREST IN YOUNGSTOWN AND VISITED GOLD CROSS AND CHECKED OUT THE CITY. HE WAS HEARING THAT THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN WAS GOING TO HAVE NO SERVICE, SO HE CONTACTED CHIEF FINLEY ABOUT IT.

**COUNCILMAN HUGHES** STATED THAT COUNCIL WAS TOLD ONLY AMR COULD HANDLE THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN.

**MR. JOSEPH** STATED THAT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN. HE FIGURED YOUNGSTOWN WOULD ALWAYS HAVE THE COMPANY THEY WERE WORKING WITH, AS CONTRACTS ARE HARD TO BREAK.

**COUNCILMAN HUGHES** STATED THAT IS HE SAYING EMT COULD HAVE BEEN AN OPTION AND WAS ALWAYS AN OPTION THIS YEAR AND LAST YEAR.

**MR. JOSEPH** STATED THAT AMBULANCES ARE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO GET, AND IF HE ORDERED ONE RIGHT NOW IT WOULD TAKE 2 YEARS TO GET IN. HE HAPPENS TO HAVE SIX (6) 2022 AMBULANCES THAT HE ORDERED A LONG TIME AGO THAT ARE JUST SITTING; PLUS A DOZEN HARD TO GET POWER STRETCHERS, AND HE WAS MISTAKENLY SENT 12 HEART MONITORS THAT THEY DIDN'T ORDER FROM A COMPANY. SO YES, HIS COMPANY COULD HAVE BEEN AN OPTION.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ASKED IF OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO HAVE TO SUPPLEMENT THIS SERVICE.

**CHIEF FINLEY** ANSWERED THAT ANY CHANGE IN WORKING CONDITIONS WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS HAS TO BE NEGOTIATED. HE DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE NEGOTIATING, BUT HE HAS A PROBLEM WITH OUR FIREFIGHTERS NOT PROVIDING THE SERVICE UNTIL THEY NEGOTIATE. HE WAS RUNNING FIRST RESPONDER SERVICE WHEN AMR WASN'T AVAILABLE, UNTIL HE WAS TURNED IN TO THE OHIO EMS BOARD AS HE DIDN'T HAVE STANDING ORDERS. WITHIN 2 WEEKS, HE GOT STANDING ORDERS, BUT THE UNION SAID THEY WOULDN'T PROVIDE THE SERVICES UNTIL THEY NEGOTIATED AN M.O.U.

**ATTORNEY LIMBIAN** INTERJECTED THAT THIS CONTRACT DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE CITY EMPLOYEES BEING INVOLVED IN AMBULANCE SERVICES.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** NOTED THAT THE VOLUME IN YOUNGSTOWN IS LARGER THAN WARREN AND THEY HAVE FOUR (4) AMBULANCES, SO HOW DID WE GET TO 4 TO 5 AMBULANCES IN YOUNGSTOWN.

**MR. JOSEPH** RESPONDED THAT THEY HAVE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN WARREN, BUT YOUNGSTOWN HAS OTHER TRANSPORT COMPANIES. WARREN IS

ROUGHLY AROUND 40,000 IN POPULATION AND YOUNGSTOWN IS AT ABOUT 60,000, SO FOUR (4) TRUCKS LOOKS LIKE THE RIGHT NUMBER, AND THERE ARE ADDITIONAL TRUCKS AVAILABLE IF NEEDED. IF NOT DOING OTHER THINGS IN WARREN, THEY COULD DO SERVICE WITH 2 ½ TO 3 TRUCKS. HE STATED THAT AMR ANALYZED THE NEEDS AND CAME UP WITH FOUR (4) TRUCKS, AS DID HE; AND IT COULD POSSIBLY EVEN BE DONE WITH THREE (3), AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT TASKED WITH OTHER NEEDS.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** ASKED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF BASIC VERSUS ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICE.

**MR. JOSEPH** ANSWERED THAT THEY WILL HAVE BOTH BASIC AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT – AT A RATE OF 50/50. DISPATCH WILL DETERMINE HOW TO USE THE RESOURCES AS BEST THEY CAN.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ASKED OF THIS ALMOST \$4 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS, HOW MUCH IS OPERATING COSTS VERSUS PROFIT.

**MR. JOSEPH** IS ULTIMATELY A PARAMEDIC, BUT MOST OF IT WILL GO TO PAYROLL AND SIGN-ON BONUSES AND TRUCKS, AND HE CANNOT GIVE A PROFIT PERCENTAGE NUMBER AS THAT IS NOT HIS EXPERTISE.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ASKED WHAT IS THE HARD COST FOR OPERATING FOUR 24-HOUR AMBULANCES AND SERVICE IN THE CITY OVER 3 YEARS. SHE NOTED AMR DID NOT PROVIDE THEIR NUMBERS. AMR WAS ASKED BUT DID NOT PROVIDE THE NUMBERS.

**ATTORNEY LIMBIAN** ANSWERED THAT THEY DID NOT ASK EMT FOR THOSE NUMBERS, AS TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE, AND THEY WEREN'T AMR ASKING FOR \$2.8 MILLION, AND AMR'S SUBSIDY OF \$750,000 WASN'T ACCEPTABLE TO COUNCIL 6 MONTHS AGO. NOW THAT WE ARE IN MID DECEMBER AND GIVEN THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THEIR BUSINESS, FRANKLY HE FEELS IT IS NOT OUR BUSINESS TO KNOW PROFIT MARGIN.

**MAYOR BROWN** INTERJECTED THAT WHEN WE ASKED AMR IT WAS BECAUSE THEIR NUMBERS STARTED GROWING, AND THEY MENTIONED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IT WAS ABOUT THE PROFIT MARGIN. EMT LAID OUT THE NUMBERS AND THEY SEEMED REASONABLE, AND THEIR INCREASE WAS LESS THAN AMR'S, AND HE SEES THIS AS AN ABILITY TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** ASKED WITH THE 3% INCREASES, WOULD EMT COME BACK TO THE CITY ASKING FOR AN INCREASE IN A CONTRACT DOWN THE ROAD, AND SAY IT IS NOT ENOUGH.

**MR. JOSEPH** STATED THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN FORESEE TO MAKE HIM COME BACK, BUT AFTER GOING THROUGH A PANDEMIC, HE WOULD NEVER SAY NEVER.

**COUNCILMAN OLIVER** ASKED IF THE NEW EQUIPMENT IS COMING TO OUR CITY OR WILL IT BE OLD EQUIPMENT.

**MR. JOSEPH** STATED IT WOULD BE THE NEW EQUIPMENT, WHICH WILL BE SENT OFF TO THE DETAIL SHOP SOON.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** NOTED WE ARE SPENDING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN DOLLARS, AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ENSURE THERE IS SUSTAINABILITY AND FAR-REACHING IMPACT. SHE ASKED HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THAT THIS THREE-YEAR CONTRACT MEETS THOSE QUALIFICATIONS, AND IS THERE FORECASTING AFTER THESE DOLLARS GO OUT.

**MAYOR BROWN** ANSWERED THAT THIS GOES RIGHT IN STEP WITH AMR GUIDELINES, AS PEOPLE WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH ISSUES ARE IN THESE ZIP CODES. AT THE END OF THE DAY, HE WOULD WANT TO DO A FEASIBILITY STUDY – AS IT WOULD BE \$1.8 MILLION TO HAVE OUR OWN PER YEAR. OTHER MAYORS SAY THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN INTO PRIVATE AMBULANCE SERVICE, AND THOSE THAT HAVE IT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DISSOLVE THEMSELVES OF IT.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** ASKED IF WE ARE CONTRACTING OUT TO DO A FEASIBILITY STUDY, BECAUSE IN THREE YEARS HOW DO WE ENSURE WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME PLACE.

**MAYOR BROWN** STATED THE FIRE CHIEF HAS BEEN TASKED WITH THIS.

**CHIEF FINLEY** STATED THE MAYOR TASKED HIM WITH FINDING A COMPANY VERSUS STARTING OUR OWN PRIVATE COMPANY. HE WANTS A THIRD PARTY TO DO A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THIS.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** SAID AS FAR BACK AS 2016, THIS ISSUE WAS PROJECTED ALL ALONG. EVEN THOUGH CITIES DON'T WANT TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES, WE EITHER PAY THE PROFIT MARGIN, OR WE DO IT OURSELVES. IN THE LONG RUN, IT IS MORE BENEFICIAL TO THE CITIZENS FOR US TO HAVE OUR OWN AMBULANCE SERVICE OURSELVES, BECAUSE THEY ARE SERVICES PROVIDED AND WE DO NOT MAKE A PROFIT ON THAT, SO THEY ARE BREAK-EVEN SERVICES.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ASKED HOW LONG UNTIL WE SEE LEGISLATION ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY.



**MR. MIASEK** RESPONDED THAT THEY WILL SET ASIDE AN AMOUNT IN THE GENERAL FUND TO AT LEAST CHOOSE A PARTY AND ENTER AN AGREEMENT BY END OF MAY 2023.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** NOTED THAT THE FIREFIGHTERS WERE REFUSING TO DO FIRST RESPONDER, ALTHOUGH WE PAY FOR SOME OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS TO BE LICENSED AS FIRST RESPONDERS,

**CHIEF FINLEY** ANSWERED THAT IN 2008, THEY REMOVED IT FROM THE CONTRACT. IF THEY WERE HIRED AND HAD EMT/PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION THEY DON'T HAVE TO MAINTAIN IT, AND CAN'T BE FORCED TO. HE HAS 17 PARAMEDICS OF WHICH MOST ARE OFFICERS, AND 24 TO 25 EMT'S, BUT HE CANNOT FORCE THEM TO DO IT BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T HIRED UNDER THAT UMBRELLA, AND IT WOULD BE AN UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE. FROM 2010 TO THIS YEAR, THE CITY HAS PAID \$182,000 IN EMT/PARAMEDIC BONUSES, BUT IT IS A SERVICE THAT THEY DON'T DO. HE IS NOW ASKING THEM TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE, AND IF WHAT THEY ASK FOR IS REASONABLE, THEN HE WILL STAND BY THE UNION.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** ASKED WHY THE BONUS CONTINUES TO BE IN THEIR CONTRACT.

**MR. MIASEK** ADDED THAT HE HAS BEEN HERE SINCE 2006, AND EVERY TIME THEY ENTER BINDING ARBITRATION, THEY OBJECT AND THE ARBITRATOR PEELS THEM BACK TO FOUR OR FIVE MAIN ITEMS, AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, THEY CANNOT ACHIEVE CERTAIN THINGS AT THE TABLE. THIS HAPPENS WITH EVERY SINGLE SAFETY FORCE.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ASKED IF THE UNION HAS BEEN ASKED TO SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE PROVIDING THIS AID.

**CHIEF FINLEY** STATED THEY WERE PROVIDING FIRST RESPONDER AS BACK UP TO AMR, BUT AFTER BEING REPORTED TO THE OHIO EMS BOARD THAT HE DID NOT HAVE STANDING ORDERS, WHEN HE FINALLY GOT THE PROTOCOL TO PROVIDE, THE UNION REFUSED TO PROVIDE IT UNTIL IT WAS NEGOTIATED. THE UNION WANTED TO DO AN M.O.U., BUT HE WAS TIED UP WITH THIS AMBULANCE SITUATION.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ASKED IF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT IS PERMISSIBLE, AND NOTING A LOT OF AMBULANCE SERVICES ARE STARTING TO GO IN-HOUSE FOR NEIGHBORING CITIES.

**CHIEF FINLEY** STATED IF EMT GETS THE CONTRACT, THEY CAN MUTUAL AID WITH OTHER AMBULANCE COMPANIES.

**ATTORNEY LIMBIAN** STATED THAT IT IS ALLOWABLE TO HAVE MUTUAL AID WITH OTHER CITIES' AMBULANCE SERVICES AS WELL.

**COUNCILMAN HUGHES** ASKED FOR CLARITY AS TO WHAT EXPECTATIONS EMT HAS WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND WHAT SERVICES ARE SHARED.

**MR. JOSEPH** ANSWERED THAT THE EXPECTATION IS USUALLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH EXTRACTION OF PATIENTS, SUCH AS AN AXE TO GAIN ENTRY, JAWS OF LIFE, OVERSIZED PATIENTS, ETC...

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** ASKED WHY IS A CHARGE BACK NOT IN THIS CONTRACT IF THEY FALL BEHIND IN RESPONSE TIMES.

**CHIEF FINLEY** NOTED THAT EMT RESPONSE TIMES ARE 90%, AND THERE IS NOT MONEY INVOLVED REGARDING CHARGE BACKS IN THIS CONTRACT.

**COUNCILWOMAN MCNALLY** ASKED ATTORNEY LIMBIAN IF THE RFP PROCESS LEGALLY ALLOWS US TO SEND IT TO INTERESTED COMPANIES, OR ONLY ALLOWS IT TO BE ADVERTISED TO THE MEDIA.

**MR. MIASEK** INTERJECTED THAT THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT HAS DONE THAT A NUMBER OF TIMES, SUCH AS FOR HIRING MANAGEMENT OF THE COVELLI CENTRE AND FOR 20 FEDERAL PLACE; AND THEY SHARED THROUGH AN EMAIL THE SITE WHERE THEY COULD DOWNLOAD THE RFP PACKET, AND AS LONG AS THEY MEET THE DEADLINE THEY COULD APPLY.

**COUNCILMAN OLIVER** STATED HE FELT THAT AMR WAS BULLYING THE CITY AND EXTORTING US AND PROVIDING US WITH INADEQUATE SERVICES, AND HE IS GLAD HE VOTED THE AMR REQUEST DOWN. HE IS APPRECIATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND CHIEF FINLEY ON PRESENTING THIS EMT COMPANY CONTRACT.

**COUNCILWOMAN TURNER** ALSO THANKED CHIEF FINLEY FOR HIS WORK ON GETTING AN EMS CONTRACT IN PLACE.

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS** RESPONDED *\*UNINTELLIGIBLE*.

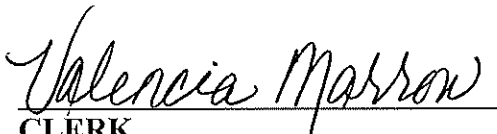
THE ORDINANCE WAS THEN PLACED BEFORE COUNCIL AND PASSED BY A VOTE OF YEAS, 5. NAYS, 1(J. HUGHES).

**COUNCILWOMAN DAVIS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**COUNCILMAN OLIVER SECONDED.**

**UPON MOTION COUNCIL ADJOURNED**

**APPROVED: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023**

  
CLERK

  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL