

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 205, 2018
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE CITY COUNCIL**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Garnes at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Sheila K. Cherry, Larry Dordea, James Edwards, Julie Jakmides, Cindy King, Roger Rhome and Brian Simeone present.

Clerk Yost read the notice of the special meeting.

President Garnes announced the reasons for the meeting and Councilwoman Jakmides was given the floor and introduced Pam Sprouse from Ohio Billing to explain her company's procedures for fire billing and explained a little history of the company and some local government references the bill for.

Ms. Sprouse explained Ohio Billing is locally owned and operated in Bolivar Ohio. They specialize in revenue recovery for fire services, both EMS and Fire response for Motor vehicle crashes. The conduct billing services for local communities including North Canton, Plain Township, Quad Ambulance District, and Bazetta Township in Trumbull Count. Ms. Sprouse explained that EMS billing is more lucrative than MVA billing but to be successful, MVA billing is based on specific actions of the Fire Department. The Department must document actions such as extrication, fire extinguishing, scene safety and security, establishing a landing zone.

Councilwoman Jakmides asked for an estimation on collection rates and Ms. Sprouse stated the national average of collection for MVA's is about 54%. Ms. Sprouse also stated that you can identify billing resident vs. non-resident and hard vs. soft billing.

Councilman Edwards questioned what fees Ohio Billing charges and Ms. Sprouse stated that instead of a percentage they charge a flat \$40 per bill and work the account for 120 days past the last payment collection.

Councilwoman Jakmides stated that the difference with Fire Recovery is that they charge a percentage of the total recovery and it could be more for a higher recovery and less for a minimal to no recovery account.

Auditor Knowles questioned the language of "Taxpayer" and "Non-taxpayer" instead of "Resident" and "Non-resident" and stated that the use of taxpayer may cause some problems.

Auditor Knowles stated that if the Levy is a big part of the plan and it doesn't pass, we will have to revise the plan.

Councilwoman Jakmides explained the various versions of the legislation she has proposed and that it can be Hard billing or Soft billing and using Fire Recovery or Ohio Billing.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned the numbers of billing taxpayer vs. non-taxpayer and hard vs soft billing. Also questioned billing primary and/or secondary insurance in a soft billing situation. Ms. Sprouse explained the process and Councilwoman Jakmides explained it would depend on the City's desire on how to proceed and what was available.

Councilman Rhome asked if fault or non-fault played a part in who was billed. Ms. Sprouse explained the process and stated that the insurance companies would work it out. Was unsure how a hard billing, non-fault situation would work out if the at fault individual was un-insured. Ms. Sprouse indicated it is important to identify resident and non-resident individuals even in a

soft billing situation because it helps establish statistics in reports and identify potential lost revenue in the billing process even if you choose not to pursue it.

Councilwoman Cherry questioned if it would include billing for police action. Ms. Sprouse stated that Police department billing is not as established in law or practice so their company does not do that at this time. However, police actions backing up the fire department is good documentation and may also carry to the fire department's actions that are billable.

Councilwoman questioned what documentation the fire department uses and if other things may be necessary. Chief Hunt explained how the procedure works and that frequently the Police reports are used to document and supplement the fire reports.

Ms. Sprouse explained that all payments are directed straight to the City and Ohio Billing does not handle or hold revenue.

Councilman Rhome questioned the contract length. Ms. Sprouse explained it is a 2 year contract with a 60 day out clause.

Council President Garnes then moved Council into the second matter for consideration and gave Auditor Knowles the floor to explain the 2018 Appropriations in Ordinance 17-18.

Auditor Knowles then reviewed various line items contained in Ordinance 17-18 and compared requests to funded items. Auditor Knowles stated that there is a limited amount appropriated for paving because of projects with grant funding that need matching funds but it is very minimal.

Auditor Knowles stated that the fiscal caution recovery plan must include a 3 year forecast and the budget needs passed sooner rather than later so that the forecast can be made and incorporated into the recovery plan.

Councilwoman Cherry asked if the forecast for the State Auditor Recovery plan can include fire department billing in the revenue portion. Auditor Knowles stated it would be very conservative since there are a lot of unknowns in this process the City has never done.

Mayor Andreani indicated that the forecast will be done and then the plan. His intention is to set up the plan on a tier system with things like the Parks Levy and Fire Department billing for MVA and inspections in a Tier I and items like street light fees and Tax Credit Reduction in a Tier II. Mayor Andreani asked Council for ideas for input into either Tier I or Tier II of the plan.

Auditor Knowles reminded Council we need a 10% carryover in all funds to satisfy the State Auditor.

ADJOURNMENT: Noting no further business presented or discussed with Council, President Garnes adjourned the special meeting of City Council at 6:55 P.M.

ARTHUR GARNES, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

GERARD YOST, COUNCIL CLERK