

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting**

March 18, 2019

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-19

Temp. Ord. B-20

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-19

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of turnout gear for use by the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach stated that they talked about the turnout gear during the budget process. Fire Chief Jackson thanked Council and the Administration for supporting the Fire Department with this ordinance. The Fire Department has been working on this project for many years. Over the years, they have learned the benefits of having clean, multiple sets of turnout gear. This money will complete the project that he set as a goal for the people in charge of turnout gear distribution to have two sets of turnout gear by approximately Easter of this year. This ordinance will bring the Fire Department in compliance with what's become the standard of care brought about by the National Fire Protection Association and OSHA. They have already taken out and entertained public bids. There will be 25 sets of turnout gear purchased for the amount of \$70,000, which would bring the project in under budget by approximately \$4,000. Every firefighter employed will have two complete sets of gear, helmets through boots. Mr. Gorbach asked what the lead time would be. Chief Jackson stated that it has been taken out to bid. If this ordinance were to pass at next week's Council meeting, they will complete the purchase order and then it would just be a matter of the delivery time. Fortunately, this year, because they are spending local monies to purchase the turnout gear, they will be ahead of the grant-cycle purchases and would anticipate approximately a four-to-six week delivery time. They may or may not be able to meet his Easter goal, but they will be close.

Mr. James stated that Chief Jackson, along with former Fire Chief Moledor, has always been diligent in making sure they protect their workforce. Every time Council has had a similar ordinance come before it, it makes him feel better and more confident in the City's safety forces. Leaders like Chief Jackson, Chief Moledor and Police Chief Davis are second to none. Kudos to the safety forces here in Cuyahoga Falls. They are doing a great job.

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Chief Jackson thanked Mr. James. He stated that they are part of a great team surrounded by wonderful people and support, which makes his job easier. Mrs. Pyke stated that, during her first term on Council almost 20 years ago, she attended a controlled burn on Bath Road. Because she had never been so scared in her entire life, she promised herself two things when she made it out of that burn: One, she would never deny the Fire Department money when it came to Council for a request to keep the firemen safe, and, two, she would never go through a controlled burn again. She stated that she supports this ordinance and always has. Chief Jackson stated that he appreciates her support.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-19 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-20

An ordinance authorizing the amendment of Ordinance No. 11-2019, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach stated that the original Ordinance 11-2019 that Council is amending with this ordinance was simply based on a cut-and-paste issue when the ordinance was created. The CDBG Fund was originally certified as the source of funds when it should have been Contractual Other. Mr. Russell Balthis, Law Director, stated that that is correct.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-20 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.