

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee

April 15, 2019

Members: Jerry James, Chair
Meika Penta
Jeff Iula

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the November 5, 2018, November 19, 2018, December 17, 2018, February 4, 2019 and March 4, 2019 Public & Industrial Improvements Committee meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-29

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-29

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with GPD Group for professional engineering services for the improvements to West Portage Trail Extension, from State Road to Northampton Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, Engineer, stated that, in 2018, a corridor and safety study was completed for West Portage Trail from State Road to Northampton Road, to determine if there were any operational deficiencies that needed to be corrected. The study showed there were a large number of rear-end crashes suggesting that turn vehicles in the through lanes are impeding traffic flow. The study recommended that road be widened to accommodate a center two-way left-turn lane from Albertson Parkway to State Road. Recommended improvements include reconstruction and upgrade of a traffic signals at Valley Road and Northampton road, constructing a westbound right-turn lane Cedar Hill Road, and constructing an 8-foot sidewalk on the north side between State Road and Cedar Hill Road.

Mr. James asked for a breakdown on costs. Mr. Demasi stated that the overall cost is estimated at around \$7.7 million. In 2017, they applied for and received \$3.6 million AMATS for construction of the project, which wouldn't be until 2023. Late last year, they applied for an additional \$2.4 million in safety funding to help with the design and the right-of-way costs and were successful. Altogether, they have received and secured over \$6 million toward the \$7.7 million project cost.

Mr. Iula asked if this project was starting or ending in 2023. Mr. Demasi stated that the Capital budget shows construction in 2023. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked if this is the same project that had to do with emissions. Mr. Demasi stated that they tried to get a CMAT construction mitigation and air quality grant. It was not approved for this funding, so they applied again for an STB and did get approved. This project will improve congestion and emissions.

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Mr. Pallotta asked if they are going to have a detour set up; some way to get around it. Mr. Demasi stated that they haven't begun design. That is what this ordinance is for. Part of the design will be developing the detour. They will probably get traffic maintained, like what was done on State Road.

Mr. Iona stated that they have done a great job on this. It's hard to get in and out of Cedar Hill and Albertson Parkway, and the road is deteriorating. This solves a lot of those problems. The widening is going to make it a lot better. Ward 8 residents really appreciate it.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-29 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Penta. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.