

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

May 26, 2020

Call to Order: Mr. Brillhart at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Balthis, present; Mr. Brillhart, present; Mr. Gorbach, present; Mr. Iula, present; Mr. James, present; Mr. Miller, present; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, present; Mrs. Penta, present; Mr. Reilly, present; Mrs. Spinner, present; Mr. Stams, present.

Invocation: Mrs. Spinner

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 11, 2020 and May 18, 2020 Council meetings were approved as written.

Reports and Communications: None

New Legislation

(First Reading)

Temp. Ord. A-27 (Planning and Zoning)

An ordinance authorizing and approving a conditional zoning certificate for the construction and operation of an AT&T Mobility wireless-cellular communication tower at Blossom Music Center at 1145 West Steels Corners Road, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-28 (Planning and Zoning)

An ordinance authorizing and approving the Final Subdivision Plat and Improvement Plans for the Towns at Steels Corners on Parcels 35-03697 and 35-03632, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-29 (Finance)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Thompson Electric, J.F. Electric, Inc., Hydaker-Wheatlake Company, Vaughn Industries, and Kent Power for make ready work in connection with small cell wireless 5G technology, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-30 (Public Improvements)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the repair and reconstruction of concrete pavement at various locations in the city, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-31 * (Community Development)

An ordinance approving the creation of a Public Art Board and various public art regulatory text amendments in accordance with Cuyahoga Falls General Development Code, and declaring an emergency.

***Public Hearing 7/6/20**

Reports of Council's Standing Committees
(Third Reading)

Planning & Zoning

No Report.

Finance & Appropriations:

Temp. Ord. A-25

An ordinance authorizing the redemption of a portion of the City's \$11,170,000 Various Purpose Improvement Bonds, Series 2018, authorizing the execution of related documents, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-25, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0). (Balthis abstained)

Public & Industrial Improvements:

Temp. Ord. A-26

An ordinance amending ordinance 29-2020 to authorize the Director of Public service to enter into a modification of Contract No. 7882 with Kenmore Construction Company, Inc., and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-26, second by Mr. Stams. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Public Affairs:

No Report.

Community Development:

No Report.

Schedule of Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning:	June 1, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Finance:	June 1, 2020, 6:35 p.m.
Public Improvements:	June 1, 2020, 6:40 p.m.
Public Affairs:	Subject to Call.
Community Development:	Subject to Call.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Stams stated that there are constituents of Ward 8 that want to attend future meetings, and asked if there is any way to provide some clarity to the Governor's order, or what Council is adopting going forward as far as how meetings are going to be conducted and the involvement of the public. Ms. Janet Ciotola, Law Director, stated that they are in constant contact with the Summit County Health Director for guidance on conducting public meetings and working through some issues. As it stands now, the meetings will continue in this manner, but they are working to get some further guidance from them to see when they will be able to have the meetings back at the Natatorium with the appropriate social distancing. As it stands now, it is her understanding that orders are still in place as it relates to City Council meetings. Mr. James stated that the Planning Commission meeting is going to be a Zoom meeting, also, with the public being able to make comments and ask questions by phone call and e-mail.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that Report 21 represented the numbers through April, and will not show what is expected to happen over the next couple of months. They did not see an exceptionally large slide in revenue numbers through the April report. They anticipate they will start to see those numbers going into the June and July reports. They do anticipate the General Fund revenues to be down about \$2.5 million this year, the Street Department revenues to be down about \$350,000 this year and the Capital Projects Fund about \$600,000. The Parks and Recreation Levy number they are still pulling together, but he anticipates the levy to be down about \$159,000 this year in revenues.

Mr. Hoffman stated that there are several things being done to combat these revenues losses. One is the City has not filled any full-time positions that have been vacant. A few of the part-time workers have been called back to work on park-related items. There is minimum staffing of seasonal workers for cutting and maintaining properties around town. On the discretionary budget side, department heads have been doing a great job in purchasing only what is needed, so they anticipate significant savings there. The current conservative estimate on the Report 21 version estimates the savings of about \$1 million to the budget on costs at this point in time. That is a conservative estimate and is expected to grow a little bit. In the Capital Projects Funds, there is some cushion to help with the blows. Capital Projects Funds have not been stopped at this point in time; they are just moving forward at a slower pace to determine the projections are correct. The April numbers are in. The May numbers coming in for income tax numbers are right in line with current projections. They are looking at that on a weekly and monthly basis to make sure they are within the projected numbers.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he addressed all the unions last week and spoke to them about the projected numbers and anticipated revenues coming in. The biggest chunk of cost to the City is in labor costs, so cuts are needed. They are going to have to make cuts with all the unions at the same time and see how that progresses as time goes on. There is something in the works with the County that would help the City out tremendously, so they are hopeful that continues down the path that it has and will be able to help with some revenues and some costs that are COVID related. At this point in time, the City does not have any intended cuts through labor costs or non-bargaining. There has been some talk at the Federal level about a secondary bill that would help with revenue with the City. If anyone can reach out to their representatives and try to get that pushed and moved forward, that would be a big help to the City and the services provided, especially police and fire services. Hopefully, the economy will start to come back, and they will start to see better numbers moving through 2020 and then 2021. On the Utility Billing side, to date, they have not seen utility bill delinquencies rise. There have been total billing decreases, but that is a function of the cost of goods, whether it be electric, water or sewer. Usage has been down for the past couple of months, and they attribute that primarily to commercial activity being down. Things are not great, and they are working through them and doing the best they can to keep services at the level that residents come to expect.

Mr. Brillhart asked if there are any purchases of vehicles or equipment that could be delayed. Mr. Hoffman stated that they have not delayed most of those purchases as of now. If the projections hold true with the income tax dollars coming in, they have discussed the vehicles that can be delayed. They have run pretty lean as it is, so, if they were to delay vehicles this year and then in future years, that would compound the issues they have had. At this point in time, they have a couple of other projects that are not moving forward that were budgeted, so they have not stopped purchase of the vehicles. Mr. Brillhart stated that the City looks great and it looks like all services are being provided.

Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Hoffman stated that there has been \$1 million worth of savings identified in discretionary funding. Mr. Hoffman stated that the savings was in discretionary and non-discretionary funding. That would be the departments not spending and keeping a very watchful eye on their individual departments, as well as positions not being filled. Mr. Brillhart asked if there have been extra costs incurred in the sanitizing of City Hall. Mr. Hoffman stated that there has not. The added cost of sanitizing is fairly minimal. Mr. Brillhart asked if the gas tax has affected the Street Department Fund being down about \$300,000. Mr. Hoffman stated that it would probably make it about equal to what it was last year. That is \$300,000 in gas tax, as well as hotel-motel tax and includes the additional amounts for the gas tax coming in. He does not have that written out, because of a portion of that gas tax was going towards capital expenses as well as operational expenses.

Mr. Brillhart asked if everything at Blossom has been cancelled this year. Mr. Hoffman stated that they are operating as if it has and the City is not going to get any revenue from admissions tax from Blossom. If there are some shows at Blossom, that would be a big positive. The latest news is that there are some shows still on the schedule for late August or maybe September, and there is still some hope that they may move forward. Mr. Iula asked if they have a projected date for the fire station in Ward 5 to be completed. Mr. Brillhart stated he is not sure.

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Michael Brillhart, Council President

Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council