

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

**September 16, 2018**

**Members:** Tim Gorbach, Chair  
Jerry James  
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. All members were present.

**Legislation Discussed**

Temp. Ord. B-56

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-56**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Economic Development and Lease Agreement with Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board; authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Assignment and Assumption of Contracts and/or Leases with 701 Properties, LLC and FZ Properties, LLC to secure adjacent parcels to be used for additional parking; increasing appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund and declaring an emergency.

Summit DD maintains several locations in Summit County, including a site at 2355 Second Street in Cuyahoga Falls, however the majority of Summit DD staff primarily operate out of the Tallmadge, Ohio location. Summit DD desires to move its Administrative operations to Cuyahoga Falls and renovate its existing building located on Second Street to accommodate this use. The City desires to assist Summit DD in relocating jobs to the City by making additional parking available at the Second Street site. Although Summit DD employees would have exclusive use of the new parking lot at the site during work hours, the new parking lot would be available for public use after 5:00 p.m. for its Downtown businesses and patrons. The approved legislation allows the City to purchase 11 parcels at a cost of about \$1.67 million located adjacent to the Second Street Summit DD facility, which was constructed in 2010, and demolish existing structures on the property for the construction of the parking lot for the added employees. The legislation allows the City to purchase 11 parcels located adjacent to the Second Street Summit DD facility at a cost of about \$1.67 million for the construction of the parking lot for the added employees.

Mayor Walters and Ms. Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director, gave presentations on Temporary Ordinance B-56.

Ms. Sara Kline, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, made a presentation regarding the cooperative effort the City and Summit DD Board will engage in to create and support adaptive and inclusive activities throughout the City. She also spoke of the tremendous impact Summit DD Board has had on her family.

Mr. Scott Fitzsimmons, Deputy Finance Director, spoke to Council regarding the impact Summit DD has had on his family.

Mr. John Trunk, Summit DD Board Superintendent, Ms. Lisa Kaminski, Summit DD Board Assistant Superintendent; Russ DuPlain, Summit DD Board Director of Information Technology; and Megan Wilkinson, Summit DD Board President, spoke in favor of Temporary Ordinance B-56.

Ms. Laura Petrella, CEO, spoke of the positive financial impact on Cuyahoga Falls businesses having Summit DD Board employees located Downtown. Ms. Abby Poeske, Executive Director of Downtown Cuyahoga Falls, spoke of the benefits of having Summit DD Board located near Downtown. Ms. Melissa Barnes, co-owner of The Workz, spoke of the possibility of Summit DD Board clients being employed at their facility. Ms. Leslie Frank, a Cuyahoga Falls resident and retiree of the Summit DD Board, spoke of the positive impact Summit DD Board has had on her family.

Mr. Gorbach stated that this meeting has been not only informational, but the personal stories presented were very inspirational. He thanked everyone who appeared before Council tonight to share their experiences with the Summit DD Board.

Mrs. Pyke asked if they are bringing 100 additional jobs. Mr. Trunk stated that there are only about five or six staff there, so they would be bringing 95 or 96. Mrs. Pyke asked if those staff members work strictly there, or will they be going out into the community in Summit County. Mr. Trunk stated that they anticipate the core of the administrative offices would be there on a permanent basis. Many of the other staff that would be housed there would be doing their business in and out of that building. Mrs. Pyke asked if someone spends 50 percent of their time in Akron does 50 percent of their income tax have to go to Akron. Mr. Scott Fitzsimmons, Deputy Finance Director, stated that it would be Cuyahoga Falls, because they're employed there. Mr. Trunk stated that their understanding is that that payroll would be assigned as Cuyahoga Falls.

Mr. Iona asked where the remainder of Summit DD Board's funding comes from. Mr. Trunk stated that 80 percent of their funding is generated through property taxes. The balance is a combination of some Federal Medicaid reimbursement they receive and what seems to be a dwindling amount of State Department of Disabilities. The other 20 percent is a combination split almost equally between State and Federal. Mr. Iona asked what was going to happen with the Howe Road campus. Mr. Trunk stated that all of their properties are owned by the County, so they are a critical partner in conversations. They have been in several conversations with Mayor Kline in Tallmadge and his Economic Development staff to talk about future use of that property.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-56 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.