

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

April 2, 2018

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the March 5, 2018 and March 19, 2018 Finance and Appropriations Committee meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. A-31

Discussion:

Mr. Gorbach stated that there was a request by the Administration to hold Temporary Ordinance A-30 and Temporary Ordinance A-32, so Council will only be discussing Temporary Ordinance A-31. He stated that if anyone came to discuss or has any questions about those two items specifically, they are welcome to address the Finance Committee. The Committee will take that information and use it during their discussion when they do discuss it. If there are questions, they will take those questions and get answers from the Finance Committee. Mr. Gorbach stated that this will only be from the audience at this time, and not from the rail. Mrs. Pyke asked if Mr. Gorbach will read it and allow them to talk and then hold it. Mr. Gorbach responded that he will not. This is only if they have general comments for the Finance Committee.

Mr. Joseph Brodzinski, 3071 Drexmore Drive, stated that he was there to speak about Temporary Ordinance A-30. One of the questions he had is has Council been provided a copy of the contract between the City and RITA. Some of the things contained in that type of contract would be what percentage RITA is charging for collections, what are they going to charge if they go to court on behalf of the City, if there any other charges and services that the City may utilize that have been factored into some sort of an analysis, is there an out clause and what is it, how much time is spent by the City prosecutors in court for income tax collections and will that free up some of their time and was a detailed, five-year cost analysis created and presented for Council. The only thing he saw was one line item, negative \$3,300 of what potential savings might be. He asked how Council can vote on that without that type of information and looking at a detailed analysis.

Mr. Brodzinski stated that it is his understanding the plan is to bring in an Income Tax Administrator at Pay Grade 29. This person will act as a liaison between RITA and the residents. There is current legislation to take the Administrator down to Pay Grade 29 from Pay Grade 31. He asked if Council has been provided what a 31 pay grade is, fully loaded, compared to a 29; that way, Council can have a clear understanding of the dollars being discussed. Other 29 pay grades include Treasurer, HR Director with certifications, Building and Ground Superintendent and Superintendent of Street and Sanitation. All these positions have huge responsibilities and supervise many people. In his belief, a full-time Income Tax Administrator supervising no one and acting as a liaison is not required, and he doesn't believe a 29 pay grade is appropriate for that

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type of position. Mr. Brodzinski asked if the Administration provided Council with a list of any other RITA cities that have that type of liaison and what they pay them. This function can be handled initially with an account clerk and then, in the out years, by the Finance Director or Assistant Finance Director. There will be very few inquiries from residents and businesses, because they'll simply contact RITA. With all the social media available, this could be accomplished quite easily to get the word out. He also asked what perimeters the Administration is creating with RITA about the waiving of any penalties depending on situations. The bottom line is that this route will save taxpayers of the community more money than is being proposed. If this route won't work, then he thinks the Administration should explain to Council why that wouldn't work. If these discussions have occurred with RITA, maybe the Administration could share that with the public or Council, or a RITA representative can come to Council and present their proposal to Council. Taking this route and going with the account clerk, which is a union position, will take away the ability for a new hire coming into the City who will be able to work, obviously, for the City at a good wage, as well as the extracurricular activity that goes on in the City after hours.

Mr. Brodzinski stated that, a few months ago, his councilman asked him what one thing he can keep his eye on in City finances. He answered the monthly income tax spreadsheet that he could request that is in Excel. It's been over a month, and he still hasn't seen it. It could mean that the Finance Director maybe got confused with Mr. Iona's request. However, working with Paul and Scott in the Income Tax Department, they know very well what that spreadsheet is, so he doesn't think it was confusion. Logically, his only other conclusion could be that this could be politically motivated. He hopes it is not, because that means he has a representative in Ward 8 that cannot do his job effectively because of political games that are being played. He asked if Mr. Iona can get that spreadsheet tomorrow. Mr. Gorbach stated that those were very good questions. Council has a lot of that information, but he will make sure Mr. Brodzinski gets answers to each individual item.

Ms. Susan Truby, 2976 Devan Vale Drive, stated she was there to only talk about Temporary Ordinance A-32. As an employee of the City for over 28 years, and the Director of Development for 17 years, she believes she certainly possesses some expertise to offer some insight on this particular issue. As she understands it, these new director and administrator positions will be responsible for overseeing communications with the public and neighborhoods; keeping residents informed and involved. She thinks there are already many resources in place that do a good job of informing residents. They have Facebook, Instagram, CFO Alert, Next Door, City Newsletter, the Monthly Minutes, the First Tuesday Program, the Home Visits, Take 10, the City radio station, the City website, the CF Committee report and Citizen update, Council meetings, newspaper articles, press releases, the CF Neighborhood Watch Program, the Online Resident Action, and the County has 211 Connect and Info Line. The Mayor stated that the ambassadors would serve as liaisons between the residents and City Council. He called them the ears and eyes of City Hall. She asked if that isn't the role everyone on City Council plays. On the City website, under City Council, it states that Council members communicate policies and programs to residents and respond to constituents' needs and complaints. It was stated that, for over the last four years, the City has signed over 100 ambassadors, yet only three were reported in the Falls New Press. One organized a basketball game, one didn't realize she had signed up, and the third organized a leaf-raking effort with local churches and reported on potholes and streetlights that were out. The

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City already pays 11 officials over \$230,000 annually to perform these responsibilities. Let's not be redundant and create more unneeded levels of government. Many cities struggle with services. Let's not create an entire new department to tell citizens what services they already have, but rather spend that money on improving those services. This legislation has no substance. It doesn't improve services. It doesn't lower utility costs, and it doesn't create any private sector jobs. She thinks it's a simply feel good, not a do-good idea with unwarranted costs to the taxpayer and it is wrong.

Mr. Tom Sullivan, 447 Tallmadge Road, asked if they will get to comment on this again when it's read. Mr. Gorbach stated that they will. He just wanted to make sure that those that came to speak specifically on those ordinances that were not being held had an opportunity to be heard.

Temp. Ord. A-31

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for supplying and installing diesel oxidation catalyst equipment, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Joseph Crtalic, General Foreman with the Electric Department, stated he was here for Mr. Michael Dougherty. This equipment legislation is for the purchase and installation of diesel oxidation catalyst equipment that's required by the EPA to run the six generators recently purchased. The reason for running these generators is for peak shaving and demand response.

Mr. Gorbach asked when the generators were purchased. Mr. Crtalic stated that it was late last year. Mr. Gorbach stated that the oxidation catalyst equipment was budgeted for and approved last year. He asked if Mr. Crtalic would give a brief explanation of what this is going to allow these generators to do. Mr. Crtalic stated that the catalyst equipment basically takes the exhaust pollutants that the generators produce and converts them to harmless substances, carbon dioxide and water. It takes all the pollutants and turns them to carbon. According to the EPA, without these catalysts, they cannot run these generators. Mr. Gorbach asked if running these generators would present a cost savings to the city. Mr. Crtalic stated that they will be run at peak shaving demand response, which cuts transmission costs and capacity charge, so it will save the City money on its power consumption charges.

Mrs. Pyke asked if they have a contract that guarantees any type of service, or will the City service these. Mr. Crtalic stated that they will have to contract out for service. There's not much maintenance on these generators. There's EPA testing that needs to be done when they commission them, and, then, every three years thereafter. Every five to seven years, the catalyst needs to be replaced. Mrs. Pyke asked if Council can get a copy of that contract for the purchase of these. Ms. Teresa Hazlett, Deputy Service Director, stated that they are opening bids this week.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-31 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.