

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee**

October 21, 2019

Members: Drew Reilly, Chair
Mike Brillhart
Vic Pallotta

Mr. Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the March 3, 2019, April 1, 2019 and June 3, 2019 Public Affairs minutes were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-74

Temp. Ord. B-75

Temp. Res. B-76

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-74

An ordinance amending Section 129.05 of the Codified Ordinances, relating to Special Police, and declaring an emergency.

Police Chief Jack Davis appeared before Council to present the ordinance. The Police Chief may assign members of the Department of Fire as special police, who shall have the power and duty to be present at all fires, investigate the cause thereof, examine witnesses, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers, and to do and perform all other acts necessary to the effective discharge of such duties. Such officer may attend police training, administer oaths, make arrests and enter, for the purpose of examination, any building which, in their opinion, is in danger from fire. Special police shall be empowered to carry a firearm and other police equipment which may be used for the purposes of carrying out their duties and self-defense. Special officers shall obtain training in the use of firearms and law enforcement techniques as required by the Chief of Police. These special police shall remain employees of the Fire Department for all other purposes.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-74 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Pallotta. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-75

An ordinance amending Section 565.04 (a) (17) of the Codified Ordinances, relating to Park Rules and Regulations, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Sara Kline, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, appeared before Council to present the ordinance. The Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation allows the serving of alcohol at three of their facilities including the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, Downtown Pavilion and the Quirk

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Cultural Center. Cuyahoga Falls has a desire to amend its program offerings and continue to spur economic development by occasionally offering alcohol during City-sponsored events at High Bridge Glens and Keyser Park Farmstead. The allowance of alcohol at events at High Bridge Glens and the Keyser Park Farmstead would be limited in nature and would require the prior approval of the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and be attended by an off duty Cuyahoga Falls Police Officer.

Mr. Reilly stated that this would operate similar to the way we handle selling alcohol at other events. Mr. Pallotta stated that there will be an off-duty police officer during these occasions. Ms. Kline stated that that is correct, just as for the Natatorium and Pavilion park facility that allows alcohol.

Mr. Iona asked if the only parks allowing alcohol would be the ones mentioned. Ms. Kline stated alcohol would only be allowed at High Bridge Glens and Keyser Park. Mr. Iona asked if the City would make money off of those events. Ms. Kline stated no. This is just an extra offering for an event. It may have a small impact on economic development by bringing in more people. This is being looked at as an enhancement that they can potentially add to programming. Mr. Iona asked if this would be in direct competition with wine bars and breweries. Ms. Kline stated that, just like Friday night events where the City partners, instead of being competition with local servers of alcohol, the City would be partnering with them. In addition to being an enhancement, it would be something that would offer some exposure to some local businesses. Mr. Iona asked if other parks would be considered in the future. Ms. Kline stated that the reason that these two parks have been chosen is because they are not in neighborhoods. This is strictly for City-sponsored events that the Parks Department are involved with. It make sense, on a very limited basis, to offer alcohol for this reason. While High Bridge Glens and Keyser Park are certainly near neighborhoods, it's not the same as other neighborhoods where a neighbor might be hesitant to have alcohol right near their home.

Mrs. Pyke stated that she thinks this is a great enhancement to these two parks. While clientele who are attending these events, like the Farmers Market with vendors selling honey and candles and various other items, it would be nice to have a glass of wine. These two parks are great for this type of enhancement for the ability for the local business to come in and sell alcohol. Mr. Pallotta added that the Pavilion can be rented and alcohol can be served. Ms. Kline stated that is correct, and, also, at the Natatorium. Mr. Pallotta stated that there are venues that can be used as an alternative.

Mr. Pallotta moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-75 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Res. B-76

A resolution expressing support for and urging the passage of Issue 14, the County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board renewal levy at the general election to be held on November 5, 2019, and declaring an emergency.

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Mr. Gerald Craig, Executive Director of the ADM Board, appeared before Council to present the ordinance. The members of Administration and City Council are committed to ensure for citizens of Cuyahoga Falls a healthy community in which a continuum of care supports mental wellness and freedom from addiction. The County of Summit ADM Board levy is a six-year, 2.95 mil renewal and will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$7 per month. The County of Summit ADM Board's services impact over 50,000 people per year, from children through older adults. 78% of the organization's operating budget comes from the local levy, of which 94% is spent on direct treatment, community education and outreach. The need for access to 24-hour crisis services, residential treatment and recovery support for people diagnosed with mental illness and addiction is a critical need to keep the community safe and healthy.

Mr. Reilly thanked Mr. Craig for coming. The ADM Board does some amazing work. Mr. Iona stated that this is not a new levy; it's a renewal. That should really help the case.

Ms. Kathy Arthur, 2187 West Bath Road, asked how she can get a sign to support the levy. Mr. Craig stated that he can leave a few signs there.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Res. B-76 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Pallotta. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.