

**CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**April 23, 2018**

- Call to Order:** Ms. Nichols-Rhodes at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call:** Mr. Brillhart, present; Mr. Colavecchio, present; Mr. Gorbach, present; Mr. Iona, present; Mr. Iula, present; Mr. James, present; Mr. Miller, present; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, present; Mr. Pallotta, present; Mrs. Pyke present; Mr. Reilly, present.
- Invocation:** Mr. Brillhart
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Miller
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the March 26, 2018, April 9, 2018 and April 16, 2018 Council minutes were approved as written.
- Reports and Communications:** An e-mail Communication received from Alex Hall, dated April 16, 2018, Regarding the Neighborhood Excellence Program.
- A Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding Permit Number 7519980 to the Rose Italian Kitchen LLC, 2251 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221.

**New Legislation**

(First Reading)

No New Legislation

**Reports of Council's Standing Committees**

(Third Reading)

**Planning & Zoning**

**Temp. Ord. A-17**

An ordinance approving regulatory text amendments in Section 1146.06 G. Revitalization Signage Areas and in Section 1146 H. Downtown Signs of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls (General Development Code), and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colavecchio moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-17, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-18**

An ordinance approving the Cuyahoga Falls Downtown Historic District Revitalization Sign Criteria and Master Sign Plan, as more fully described and depicted herein, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Colavecchio moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-18, second by Mr. Iona. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

**Finance & Appropriations:**

**Temp. Ord. A-30**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor and/or Director of Finance to execute a contract with a Regional Council of Governments for the purpose of administration and collection of municipal income tax in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach stated that he applauds the Finance Director and the Administration for reviewing this as an option for the City moving forward. He looks forward to hearing more from here as they move through the transition.

Mrs. Pyke asked if Mr. Iona received the cost analysis he requested for projects for the next five years, because she has not received a copy. Mr. Gorbach stated that a copy of the cost analysis has been provided to Council this evening.

Mrs. Pyke moved to send Temp. Ord. A-30 back to Committee. Roll Call: Mr. Brillhart, No; Mr. Colavecchio, No; Mr. Gorbach, No; Mr. Iona, Yes; Mr. Iula, Yes; Mr. James, No; Mr. Miller, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, No; Mr. Pallotta, Yes; Mrs. Pyke, Yes; Mr. Reilly, No. Motion failed, voice vote (6-5).

Mr. Gorbach stated that this is a companion ordinance with Public Affairs. He is excited with the move and the new department and can't wait to hear about all the wonderful things that this accomplishes.

Mrs. Pyke stated that she went into this with an open mind and wanted to weigh the pros and the cons, because she believes good communication is the foundation for government, good business and good relationships. While comparing the duties associated with this new position and the current position within the Community Development Department, she noted that many of the duties of these two positions overlap. She heard Mark Bosco, from Western Reserve Hospital, state the City needs a single source for information. When she asked him if he found this to be the case when Sue Truby was the Community Development Director under the Robert Administration, he stated yes. During the budget hearing, Council heard that Ms. Crawford-Smith is paid 50 percent of her salary and is expected to spend 50 percent of her time with these duties. She then looked at the funding and calculated that this entire program should cost about \$329,000 per year. That equates to \$150 an hour. The City could hire four Community Policing Officers

for that amount, who could do this job with the Neighborhood Ambassadors. By doing this with a Community Policing Program, it takes away anybody's ability to say that it is political. After reading the information handed out, the City is currently staffed to do many of these duties. Given that information, she stated that she will not be able to support A-32 or A-36.

Mr. Gorbach moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-30, second by Mr. James. Roll Call: Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mr. Colavecchio, Yes; Mr. Gorbach, Yes; Mr. Iona, No; Mr. Iula, No; Mr. James, Yes; Mr. Miller, No; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mr. Pallotta, No; Mrs. Pyke, No; Mr. Reilly, Yes. Motion passed, voice vote (6-5).

**Temp. Ord. A-32**

An ordinance amending appropriations for the creation of the Division of Neighborhood Excellence, Communications, and Community Outreach and to make certain other adjustments to various departments to streamline efficiencies, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-32, second by Mr. James. Roll Call: Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mr. Colavecchio, Yes; Mr. Gorbach, Yes; Mr. Iona, No; Mr. Iula, No; Mr. James, Yes; Mr. Miller, No; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mr. Pallotta, No; Mrs. Pyke, No; Mr. Reilly, Yes. Motion passed, voice vote (6-5).

**Public & Industrial Improvements:**

No Report.

**Public Affairs:**

**Temp. Ord. A-36**

An ordinance amending Chapter 133 of the Codified Ordinances and creating the Division of Neighborhood Excellence, Communications, and Community Outreach (“NECCO”) and the positions of Neighborhood Excellence, Communications, and Community Outreach Director; and Neighborhood Excellence and Downtown Administrator; renaming Public Utility Customer Advocate to Public Utilities and Community Outreach Coordinator; and abolishing the position of Riverfront Centre District Manager in the Community Development Department and amending Exhibit “A” of Ordinance 117-2015, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to make a motion to amend Temporary Ordinance A-36 with Temporary Ordinance A-36 (Sub. Dated 4-23-18). He stated his amendment concerns the Administrative Specialist position listed in Section 1 (a). In looking at job functions provided by the Administrative Specialist, some of those functions are provided for with what the CDBG Department already has in place, so he would like to eliminate that position moving forward. At budget time next year, if there's a need for it, Council possibly could bring it back. With regard to 1(b), he thinks it was important to add in corroboration with City Council. That eliminates issues that some residents were having that this would circumvent Council.

Mr. Reilly stated that he wanted to thank Councilman Miller for speaking with him earlier today about his amendment and giving his rationales behind it. Before he became an attorney, he was an Executive Assistant for Summit County. The job description of the person he was assistant to and his job duties looked very similar on paper. They are very different in practice. While it might, on paper, look like it's redundancy, in actual practice, it isn't. It may say set up meetings between different departments, but the Chief of Staff is not the one actually contacting everyone to set up the meetings. It's important to have that support in the administrative staff, because things don't get done if those in higher-up positions are concentrating on the minutia. As far as coming back to it after budget time, he disagrees, because the most important time to have support staff is when you're getting a new program off the ground. That is when there is a need for an extra set of hands. He can't, in good conscience, vote for this amendment because of that reason.

Mr. Iona stated that he is 100 percent in favor of volunteers; however, he does not believe that they need to create a whole new department for it. He thinks it can be done with the amount of resources they have now. He cannot support a creating a new department that's going to be funded with taxpayer dollars. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that this department is actually a reorganization, so that things are done better than they have been done in the past. In fact, in the long run, it's going to cost less. This department promotes communication, community outreach and neighborhood excellence, so she believes it's a good use of tax dollars.

Mr. Miller moved to amend Temporary Ord. A-36 with Temp. Ord. A-36 (Sub. Dated 4-23-18), second by Mr. Iona. Roll Call: Mr. Brillhart, No; Mr. Colavecchio, No; Mr. Gorbach, No; Mr. Iona, Yes; Mr. Iula, Yes; Mr. James, No; Mr. Miller, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, No; Mr. Pallotta, Yes; Mrs. Pyke, No; Mr. Reilly, No. Motion failed, voice vote (7-4).

Mr. Brillhart moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-36, second by Mr. Reilly. Roll Call: Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mr. Colavecchio, Yes; Mr. Gorbach, Yes; Mr. Iona, No; Mr. Iula, No; Mr. James, Yes; Mr. Miller, No; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mr. Pallotta, No; Mrs. Pyke, No; Mr. Reilly, Yes. Motion passed, voice vote (6-5).

#### **Temp. Ord. A-37**

An ordinance re-assigning the nonbargaining positions of Tax Administrator, Deputy Service Director and Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Superintendent to the appropriate pay grade within the classification and compensation plan, and amending Exhibit "A" of ordinance 117-2015, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brillhart moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-37, second by Mr. Pallotta. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

#### **Temp. Ord. A-38**

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control File by providing for installation of various traffic control devices, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brillhart moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-38, second by Mr. Reilly. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

**Community Development:**

No Report.

**Schedule of Committee Meetings**

Planning & Zoning:	Subject to Call.
Finance:	Subject to Call.
Public Improvements:	Subject to Call.
Public Affairs:	Subject to Call.
Community Development:	Subject to Call.
Special Committee:	Subject to Call.

**Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Hoffman stated that on Report 21, in the General Fund under the Revenues category, the Local Government Fund is up \$9,948, or over 32 percent, from 2017, which is the good trend in a line item, because there are two line items in the Local Government Fund. The State of Ohio line item was taken out of the State budget last July, so they don't anticipate any dollars for that. They have had a downward trend for the last several years, so that's a positive there. In other funds, Municipal Income Tax is down 2.7 percent over 2017. The filing deadline was the April 17th, so they will be looking at the numbers over the last couple months to get an idea of what's going on there. In the SCMR Fund, the gasoline excise tax is up \$3,677, or about one percent over last year. In the Leisure Time Fund, Natatorium charges for services are down \$3,111. He considers that flat for this year over 2017. It's a large fund, and the Natatorium is doing well. He didn't include any of the other departments in the Leisure Time Fund on the talking point sheet. He will start looking at those next month as the weather starts to get better. The golf course is open and some of the other facilities are going to start to see some actual revenue. Because of the long winter, hopefully they can make up some of that ground in the golf course this summer.

Mr. Hoffman stated that, on the Expense side, there is some overtime and some other things flowing in the SCMR Fund that is going to be up this year from last year. That fund is not out of line and he doesn't see any real issues there. Self-Insurance; Hospitalization and Dental is up \$60,300 over the last year. Prescriptions this year are up \$39,027. They do watch those two items very closely every month and review those monthly on the claims filed. Claim activity in Prescriptions has been down the last few weeks, so they hope to see that number level off in next month's report.

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Council President

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Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council