

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee Meeting
January 22, 2013

Members: Carrie Snyder, Chair
Mark Ihasz
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mrs. Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the October 15, 2012 Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-3

Temp. Ord. B-4

Temp. Res. B-5

Discussion

Temp. Ord. B-3

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the design-build services necessary to conduct the riparian restoration of Kelsey Creek, and for associated stream bank restoration, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Carr stated the City has received grant money. The area is in bad shape so it is good to have the grant money to repair the area and help with flood control. This is also one of the things the City can do because of the \$3 storm water fee charged each month.

Becky McCleary stated the stream handles a lot of storm water from three highly urbanized areas. It flows through Kennedy Park, past Water Works and into the Cuyahoga River. An increase in volume over the years is primarily the problem. It is important to restore impacted streams. The conditions at Kelsey Creek pose a hazard to people visiting Kennedy Park. A sanitary sewer line is also threatened. A grant for \$90,000 was awarded to the City to restore the area. It represents 50% of the construction project. They will be improving 1,000 feet of stream and 1,800 feet of embankment. Public access will be encouraged during the restoration project. Public safety will be improved by making the banks a gradual slope. Pricing and technical proposals have been received, the final design will be completed in mid-March and construction will begin in April. They anticipate construction being completed by June 30. Mrs. Pyke asked if the natural flow has been changed. Mrs. McCleary stated not to her knowledge. The stream is part of the Kelsey Creek water shed and handles parts of Tallmadge, Munroe Falls and Cuyahoga Falls. She is not aware of any recent development upstream and feels most of the problem is due to development on Howe Road.

Mr. James stated it has been a bone of contention with people along Kelsey Creek. They had a lot of concerns after it was dredged and there were low-lying patches of water. That will be moot now. Other concerns arose when the pond was contaminated by fertilizers and insecticides from homes, the golfcourse and from Tallmadge. He asked if anything could be done to slow that down. Mrs. McCleary stated this restoration will slow it down and allow the native plantings to absorb the chemicals. They implemented a pond-planting project on November 17 and planted 2,000 trees and shrubs at the site to help filtrate the water. There will be a dramatic increase in the water quality in that area. There will be a variety of native plants planted along the banks to help solidify them. It will look totally different and will be a whole new environment.

Mrs. Klinger asked how much of the \$290,000 is for design. Mrs. McCleary stated that some of the design was completed in 2012 so some of the costs have already been incurred. Design and engineering is estimated to be \$85,000, post construction monitoring is \$35,000 and construction is \$130,000 without any contingencies, however, the proposals received came in within budget. Mrs. Klinger felt \$85,000 for design seemed high. Mr. Demasi

stated the smaller the project is, the more complex it is. They are trying to resolve several goals in this project. This team will be the one who designs and builds it, which is more efficient. Mrs. Klinger asked what the total length of the stream bed was. Mrs. McCleary stated it is close to 1,100 feet that will be restored. There is more that flows through the golf course and they may do a follow-up but this will be the major portion.

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

Temp. Ord. B-4

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the replacement or adjustment of concrete sidewalks, drive approaches and curbs at various locations in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated this is the annual ordinance to enter into a contract for repair and replacement for 2013. They are also including drive approaches that property owners can request. Bids will be opened in March and work will begin around the school recess in June. Mrs. Snyder asked if he anticipated the same number of requests in 2013 as 2012. Mr. Demasi stated that after Council approves the legislation, the press does a story which the residents read and then begin making requests. The City receives requests from property owners, pedestrians and Council.

Mr. Ihasz moved to bring out B-4 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Res. B-5

A resolution creating for the year 2013 a Sidewalk and Drive Approach Repair or Replacement District containing such streets, alleys, or public roadways within the corporate limits of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, declaring the necessity of repairing or replacing the sidewalks and drive approaches abutting on such streets, alleys or public roadways within said corporate limits and providing the method for levying special assessments, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated this is a related resolution to the previous ordinance. It establishes the districts for this year and allows the City to do the work and invoice those next year. Mr. Walters asked if it would be a legitimate objection for someone if a tree lifted the sidewalk. Mr. Demasi stated they deal with that all the time. It is a matter of sitting and explaining the purpose and need, and how it is an important level of service for people to be able walk safely. The City will plant a new tree if the resident wishes that is better suited to the situation. Mr. Walters stated the City previously made an attempt to save the tree if the tree was not compromised. He asked if it was now the practice to just take it down. Mr. Demasi indicated it was.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out B-5 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Ihasz. Motion passed (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.