

**CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**January 25, 2016**

- Call to Order: Mr. Pallotta at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call: Mr. Rubino, present; Mr. Pallotta, present; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, present; Mr. Brillhart, present; Mr. Miller, present; Mr. James, present; Mr. Iona, present; Mr. Colavecchio, present; Mrs. Klinger, present; Mr. Iula, present; Mrs. Pyke, absent.
- Invocation: Mr. Iona
- Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Miller
- Approval of Minutes: None
- Reports and Communications: A letter dated January 22, 2016 to Council from Mayor Walters regarding his appointments to Various Boards and Commissions.

**New Legislation**  
(First Reading)

**Temp. Ord. A-6**

An ordinance establishing pay ranges for part-time, per diem, and special classification workers, and declaring an emergency.

Council recessed into a Committee-of-the-Whole at 6:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:40 p.m.

**Reports of Council's Special Committees**

Mr. James moved to approve the Mayor's appointments, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Reports of Council's Standing Committees**  
(Third Reading)

**Planning & Zoning:**

No report.

**Finance & Appropriations:**

**Temp. Ord. A-1**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into a contract without competitive bidding with Stryker Corporation for the purchase of Model 6506 Power Pro Ambulance Cots and appurtenances for use in the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Klinger moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-1, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-1).

**Public & Industrial Improvements:**

No report.

**Public Affairs:**

**Temp. Ord. A-2**

An ordinance creating and assigning the position of Electric Meter/Substation General Foreman in the classification and compensation plan, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Pallotta moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-2, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Community Development:**

**Temp. Ord. A-3**

An ordinance adopting the Mill Pond-Mud Brook Greenway Master Plan, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Guerra for providing this master plan. He said that Cuyahoga Falls is the second largest city in Summit County, and there are several other communities that use the watershed at Mill Pond. He would like to continue with this plan and is looking forward to similar plans, because they will improve the quality of life for our City. This master plan does create new recreational opportunity for the City. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Brillhart for personally working on several issues regarding flood mitigation that were incorporated into the master plan.

Mr. Miller moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-3, second by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-4**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Cuyahoga Falls to transfer real property known as the Falls Theater to the Community Improvement Corporation of Cuyahoga Falls to facilitate the redevelopment of the property, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Miller thanked Ms. Sheridan, the City Planners and Coming Attractions Development for their hard work on this project. He stated that when he was growing up in Cuyahoga Falls, he had heard a lot of stories about the Falls Theater and the building always stood out to him. He appreciates that the historic image will be maintained while also modernizing the building for mixed use. Mr. Miller stated that this project will serve as a foundation for bigger projects at Front Street and providing new life for downtown.

Mr. Miller moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-4, second by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-5**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area agreement with TRM Manufacturing, Inc., and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Miller stated that TRM is filling a vacant property where one business recently closed, so the timing couldn't have been better. TRM Manufacturing provides custom attachments for the construction and demolition industry, offering something a bit unique. Mr. Miller said this ordinance, in his opinion, does give them stability, because they are currently renting at a different facility in Stow. He stated he is confident this company will add value to our community for many years to come.

Mr. Miller moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-5, second by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Schedule of Committee Meetings**

Planning & Zoning:	Subject to call.
Finance:	February 1, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Public & Industrial Improvements:	Subject to call.
Public Affairs:	Subject to call.
Community Development:	Subject to call.

**Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Pallotta asked Mr. Hoffman to start off by going over Report 21. Mr. Hoffman stated he put together notes with bullet points for the end of the year. He stated that, overall, 2015 was a pretty good year. There were some things in Report 21 that weren't exactly smooth from 2014 to 2015, so, based on recommendations, accounting changes were made. In going over Report 21, Mr. Hoffman stated that in the total of the General Fund, there is a difference between total revenue and total disbursements of \$409,532. After adding in the encumbrances of \$247,000 and considering the 27th pay, the City is ending at a fairly flat budget for 2015. The total unencumbered balance decreased from 2014, but, in 2014, there were added revenues for the 27th pay that created an artificially-high unencumbered balance in 2014. Mr. Hoffman stated one thing that is of note is retro pays for the pay increases that Council had approved at the end of the year. Those are estimated at about \$200,000 to \$250,000. They are currently in the process of calculating those retro pays. He stated he doesn't want to speculate on exactly when they will be done, because it takes quite a bit of time to make those calculations.

Mr. Hoffman made note of a couple trends. One of the big trends is in property tax collections. Property tax collections were down over the whole year, but one of the trends was that out of the current billed amounts, 98.12% of billed property taxes were collected, which is an increase over the previous years. The estimate had been about 98% collected this year, so it came in above that. The admissions tax number on the sheet is higher than 2014 by over \$100,000. Part of that is artificially high because of the admissions tax that came in at \$87,891 for the year. That is brought into that line and then sent back out to Stark for admissions tax. Income tax was up, over 2014, by about \$249,000, and then over the original budget estimate, there was a little over \$500,000 in income tax collections. Mr. Hoffman stated that the City ended up at 63% in interest revenue. He stated that they changed the investment policy in 2014, and because of that, they are starting to see some increased revenue.

Mr. Hoffman stated that he wanted to keep the theme of municipal income tax. Overall, income tax is up 6.3% over 2015. The S.C.M.R. Fund was up \$672,131 in unencumbered balance at the end of the year. With the mild winter so far with plowing and salt, hopefully, that will continue. Mr. Hoffman stated that, earlier in 2015, the General Fund contribution into this fund was increased by \$200,000. That will have to be closely monitored, in 2016, to see if there is a need to have that amount going into that fund throughout the year. He stated that he would want to keep some of the balance in this fund as a cushion for a really bad winter in the future, but he does not believe an artificially-high fund balance is needed in that fund.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the Capital Projects Fund was estimated, at the end of the year, to be about \$1.5 million with the balance going into 2016. After 2015, the City ended up with a little over \$1.9 million in unencumbered balance. Mr. Hoffman said the City will carry over \$400,000 in 2016. One of the things it may be used for is to provide options for the opening of Front Street and the costs that may be incurred. Providing a quick update on the Natatorium, Mr. Hoffman said that revenue is up 3% for the year. He noted that the parking lot is completely full this evening, and it's been very welcoming to have the Natatorium doing very well.

Mr. Hoffman stated that a Self-Insurance Committee has been created with Union representation and Administration representation to monitor the self-insurance fund and the new group health insurance plans implemented this year. This year-end, the self-insurance fund was rather flat expense-wise. It was down a little over \$20,000, which, in an almost \$5 million expense fund, is really very small. Considering that there were expected increases in that fund with trends throughout the industry, it was very welcome to end with a little more balance in that fund. That will be monitored with the Health Insurance Committee that has been created. Mr. Hoffman then concluded his report for the evening.

Mr. Pallotta asked Mr. Iona if there were any updates on the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Iona stated there was a networking event last week and 100 people from small businesses attended. He stated he also found out 11 new businesses joined the Chamber of Commerce. Six of them are actually in Cuyahoga Falls. He stated businesses join the Chamber for benefits, health care, Workers Comp, et cetera. Mr. Iona said that it is a good sign the Chamber of Commerce is getting some new businesses at the beginning of the year.

Mayor Walters announced that on Monday, February 1, 2016, at 5:15, the 2016 Mayor's Youth Council will have their first meeting. There are nine students that are serving on the Council. Mayor Walters stated that it has been a learning experience for the students and for him. He stated the meeting will be held in Council Chambers and all are invited to attend.

Mrs. Klinger moved to excuse Mrs. Pyke from tonight's meeting, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0). Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Vic Pallotta, Council President

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Dana Capriulo, Clerk of Council