

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting**  
**October 17, 2011**

**Members:** Mark Ihasz, Chair  
Kathy Hummel  
Jeff Iula

Mr. Ihasz called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the September 19, 2011 Committee meeting were approved as submitted

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. B-96

Temp. Ord. B-97

Discussion

**Temp. Ord. B-96**

An ordinance amending Sections 929.05 and 929.06 of Title Five, Part Nine of the Codified Ordinances, enacting new sections 929.07, 929.08, 929.09, 929.10, 929.11 and 929.12 thereof, relating to storm water pollution prevention plans, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated this is an update for the section regarding sediment and erosion control. It now requires grading performance needs done for a certain sized area. An agreement will need to be entered into and will include reporting back to us on a yearly basis. This sets and defines enforcements for projects violating a grading permit. Mr. Ihasz asked whether there were any past or present incidents that brought about this change. Mr. Demasi stated this is just an update. The City's permit gets reissued with the EPA every five years. This brings us in line with current EPA standards. Mrs. Hummel commented on the language in Section 929.11 where it states that a notice of violation would be given requiring a situation be corrected within 30 days but there is no mention of any stop work until section (c) of that section. She asked if the notice of violation included a stop work order. Mr. Kring stated that Summit Oil and Water Conservation does the City's inspections. The City gives 30 days to correct the situation and, if that is not done, a stop work is issued at that point. If a stop work is issued too early, the site must be cleared which means there would be no opportunity for the situation to get corrected. Once the notice is issued, the City is on-site daily until it is corrected or it issues the stop work for failure to correct.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out B-96 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Hummel. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-97**

An ordinance amending Sections 1336.01 and 1336.02 of Title Five, Part Thirteen of the Codified Ordinances, relating to clandestine drug labs, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Pozza stated the City has trained officers who respond to drug labs. The problem, however, is what to do with the chemicals when they first respond. Initially, the DEA would come in and take the chemicals away but the federal government stopped that. The Summit County Drug Unit then took over and was paying the bill but they have recently informed the City they will no longer be paying the bill because it was getting too expensive. In July, Summit County paid \$16,000 in disposal fees. The name of the company who responds to these incidences is called ChemPak. The typical cost is between \$1,000

to \$2,000 depending on the size of the lab. Chief Pozza would like to make the people with the lab and/or the property owner responsible for the cost of chemical disposal at an initial response. When a meth lab is discovered, officers take photographs and then begin dismantling it. ChemPak then disposes of the chemicals. Mrs. Hummel felt the City was pretty clear that the property owner, whoever that may be, would be responsible for the significant clean-up that follows. This would be a separate, initial expense. She felt that the public needed to be notified of this and be made aware this is an added cost because the City is not going to absorb it, and neither is the County nor the federal government. Chief Pozza also mentioned they are finding more labs in vehicles and mentioned a recent event where a vehicle was stopped for a routine traffic stop on the Howe Road ramp off Route 8. He stated once this legislation is passed, he would work on getting notice out to the public. Mr. Iula asked how many meth labs there have been in the past year. Chief Pozza stated there have been ten so far this year. Most were on properties but this last one was in a car. Mr. Iula stated it is a tough situation for people who rent houses. Most meth labs are probably renters so the costs associated with clean-up would kick to the homeowner. If a notice could go out as a press release, that would help. Mrs. Pyke asked if ChemPak would bill the property owner or the City. Chief Pozza stated they would bill the City and the City would then seek reimbursement from the appropriate individual. Mrs. Hummel asked if any other companies did this work. Chief Pozza stated that ChemPak is the company that Summit County was utilizing and is one of the lowest. Property owners do not have the ability to choose a company in this situation because it is an emergency response and there can be no delay. It also could occur in the middle of the night. Capt. Davis added that property owners do have the choice of who they want to remediate the property but this involves actual chemicals.

Mrs. Hummel moved to bring out B-97 with a favor recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.