

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

October 2, 2017

Members: Vic Pallotta, Chair
Adam Miller
Jerry James

Mr. Pallotta called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-74

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-74

An ordinance amending Section 303.07 of the Codified Ordinances, relating to impounding of vehicles in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Pallotta stated that this ordinance has to do with the towing companies and the cost they're incurring removing and impounding cars from public property.

Police Chief Davis stated that, about a year ago, the State changed the way that the tow companies had to handle towing from private property. It changed by putting a lot of the burden back to the tow companies, which made it not cost effective for them to honor those signs that are put up on private property. What happened is when property owners had cars left on their property, they would call their tow company, and the tow company would say they're not coming. There is nothing the Police Department can do, because it is on private property and doesn't meet any of the other standards for them to tow a vehicle. Captain Goldman was tasked to meet with the Law Department to look at how they could remedy this. Akron had a similar ordinance to what is being proposed tonight, which they have found to be effective. It puts the onus on the property owner to sign an affidavit which will allow for a police officer to do a police-order tow per the ordinance, and then the vehicle owner can claim their property back from the tow company.

Mr. Pallotta stated that it is advantageous for private property owners to get these cars off their lot. Chief Davis stated that they have apartment buildings and even churches that have called the Police Department to have a parked vehicle removed. They've tried to reach out to the owner to get them to move it. They cannot remove the vehicle unless it is blocking an egress or ingress or one of the other conditions that are already listed on the impound ordinance. Mr. Pallotta stated that this relieves the tow companies of all the extra paperwork or other loopholes. Chief Davis stated that they were basically losing money if they were to tow it, so they stopped doing it. Again, that doesn't meet citizens' needs. They turned to the Police Department, and the Police Department must have an ordinance to back them up to do something like that.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.