

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Affairs Committee

November 16, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pallotta, Chair, at 7:14 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Without objection, the minutes of the meetings of October 19, 2015 and November 2, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. B-103

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association effective July 1, 2015, and declaring an emergency.

Law Director Russ Balthis stated there was no further information to share that was not discussed in the prior week's executive session.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp Ord. B-103 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. B-104

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association effective July 1, 2015, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Balthis stated there was no further information to share that was not discussed in the prior week's executive session.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp Ord. B-104 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. B-105

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a settlement agreement in the case of Tiffany McClaskey v. City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Balthis stated there was no further information to share that was not discussed in the prior week's executive session.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp Ord. B-105 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-agenda items

The Chair recognized a member of the public, Billy H. Rhines, 1868 Windsor St., who stated that residents on his street are continuing to place leaves in the street even after the last leaf pickup has occurred. Residents do not appear to have been informed of the leaf pickup schedule. Mr. Rhines asked what will be done. The Chair recognized Mr. Rubino, who stated that leaf pickup in Ward 1 was the earliest in the city, and there are now only two leaf pickups per year. Mr. Rubino asked if there is flexibility to add an additional leaf pickup. The Chair recognized Mr. James, who stated that the City needs to consider additional leaf pickups because the leaves present a traffic hazard if they are left to freeze over the winter. The Chair recognized Service Director Eric Czetli, who stated that the leaf pickup season is November 2 to November 28. The City must balance the need for leaf pickup with the potential need for snow removal, understanding that the same trucks perform both functions. The program is subject to the weather. 27 city employees and 50 part-time employees are involved in the program. Adding a third pickup would be costly and would risk the City not being prepared for snow removal. Nevertheless, the City will hold

some trucks back and, weather permitting, will try to pickup leaves where needed. However, residents must bear some responsibility for ascertaining the leaf pickup schedule and getting their leaves to the street in a timely manner. Neighbors who continue to put leaves in the street after the last pickup are not being good neighbors. Mr. Rhines asked if residents will be informed of an additional leaf pickup. Mr. Czetli stated that the City would make an effort to pickup leaves. The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked if the City could at least clear the areas around catch basins in order to permit proper drainage. Mr. Czetli stated that the City would make an effort to pickup leaves. The Chair recognized Mr. James, who asked if there is an ordinance prohibiting the placement of leaves in the street. Mr. Balthis stated he was unaware of an ordinance specifically on that point, but enforcement of such an ordinance would be problematic anyway because of the problem of proving who placed the leaves in the street. The Chair stated that residents can use yard waste containers for the disposal of leaves.

The Chair recognized a member of the public, James A. Masters, 648 Broad Blvd., who stated that the underground power line to his home was damaged by a contractor working for Dominion East Ohio. The City repaired the line after the contractor refused to take responsibility. The line failed again, and the City refused to repair it, citing a document signed by his wife at the time of the first repair which indicated that the customer agrees that the service connection is the responsibility of the customer. The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked why the City would not repair the service connection and seek reimbursement from the party at fault. Mr. Balthis stated he has not heard of this issue before, but a contractor's bond would usually cover this matter. Mrs. Pyke asked if the gas line contractor would not have submitted a bond to the City. City Engineer Tony Demasi stated that this was a project of the gas company, and the City is not involved. Utility service lines are not marked on private property. The Chair recognized Mr. Colavecchio, who stated the City has no obligation to repair damage on private property. Mr. Balthis stated this is correct. The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who

asked if the City repairs overhead service connections that are damaged. Mr. Demasi stated that in an overhead connection, the City's responsibility is to the weatherhead, whereas in an underground connection, the City's responsibility is to the junction box in the street. The Chair recognized Mr. Mader, who stated that damage to an underground electric line may not appear immediately. The Electric Dept. has equipment to locate a fault.

Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.



Victor Pallotta, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council