

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

December 19, 2016

Members: Vic Pallotta, Chair
Adam Miller
Jerry James

Mr. Pallotta called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-107

Temp. Ord. A-108

Temp. Res. A-109

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-107

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to provide dispatch and related safety services to the Village of Boston Heights, and declaring an emergency.

Police Chief Davis stated that Boston Heights contract with Richfield was up. They approached Cuyahoga Falls about doing dispatching services for their police department only. After studying it to make sure that they have the handling capability, he doesn't believe that it is going to be an issue or have an impact on the dispatching center. Boston Heights sees what Cuyahoga Falls is doing as far as the COG project, and they want to get in on the ground floor. Mrs. Pyke asked if the contract will come back to Council for approval. Mr. Russell Balthis, Law Director, stated that the details of it would not. Because Boston Heights will be paying the City, they are the ones authorizing the agreement. They have negotiated the contract and have copies of drafts they will provide to Council. Chief Davis stated that the charge to Boston Heights for this service will be \$33,493 annually; then it goes up 3 percent a year after that. Mrs. Pyke asked how that compares with what they charge Munroe Falls. Chief Davis stated that the contracts were similarly based on what they have done for Munroe Falls, as well as Silver Lake.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-107 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-108

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control File by providing for installation of various traffic control devices, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Davis stated that they had four items from the Traffic Control Committee: One was to prohibit parking on the even side of Charlene Drive, from Quick Road to Woodridge Drive.; the second one was to prohibit parking on the even side of Meadow Lane from Quick Road to Charlene Drive; the third was to prohibit parking on the odd side of Center Avenue, between the driveways

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at 515 Center and the last item was to prohibit the use of all engine brakes within the City of Cuyahoga Falls except when used on public safety vehicles or for emergency purposes. Charlene Drive and Meadow Lane are narrow roads. They were having issues with the roads becoming congested by parking on both sides. On Center Avenue, there was a driveway that comes out there and people were having difficulty pulling out. Councilman Miller brought to their attention to the jake brake issue, based on noise complaints from the use of the air brakes, engine brakes.

Mr. Pallotta stated that Quick Road, Charlene Drive and Meadow Lane are deep-ditch streets, so it is a safety issue with passengers getting out of their cars. Chief Davis stated that those also are not well-lit areas. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that Center Avenue is a ditched street, as well, and is too narrow for people to drive down with cars parked there; especially when it's slippery. Mr. Iona stated that he wanted to thank Chief Davis for being so cooperative with the Traffic Flow Committee. He made a lot of people happy in the Woodridge Drive neighborhood.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-108 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Res. A-109

A resolution supporting the efforts of the Celtic Club of Ohio as they work to make a positive difference in the lives of many, through local community service, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated this resolution was at the request of Jim Collver, of the Celtic Club, in an effort called Celtic Club Fights Cancer, Bras Across the Crooked River. They have had two of these events in Cuyahoga Falls. The third one is planned for the fall of this year. The Celtic Club has received a proclamation from Mayor Walters supporting their efforts. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes thanked the members of Council for co-sponsoring this resolution. The group collects bras and makes a display to bring awareness about cancer. The bras are then donated to the Battered Women's Shelter. Mayor Walters has offered that City Hall to be a drop-off place for their fall event. This event is an opportunity for people of Cuyahoga Falls to show people that they're not alone in their grief, recovery or in their hope. Mr. Collver stated he appreciated the opportunity to be before Council. About 14 years ago, the Celtic Club started two events. They have a cancer event and a St. Pet's Day. Like everybody here, cancer has touched his family in a bad way. They have had displays on the Portage Trail bridge and the High Level bridge. In total, they have had 32 of these events in 7 Northeast Ohio counties. They have donated about over 10,000 bras to battered women's shelters. There is no money involved with this. They held an event this past July to honor a long-time resident of Cuyahoga Falls that passed away. His widow still lives here. She was unable to be here today, but she wanted to thank them. The Celtic Club would like to find another resident in the Falls that they could do it in memory or honor of or somebody who is going through treatment. Their other event is called St. Pet's Day. They are going to have one March 4th. They are to benefit the K-9 units. They would like to have one for the Cuyahoga Fall Police Department K-9 unit. They take nothing and pay all the expenses. Everything would go to the K-9 unit. They have a lift-a-thon, where high school athletes go out into the community and solicit donations per pound. There's four different lifts. Then everything goes to the K-9 unit. They have had a lot of success with it in Stow, and he is sure it will do the same thing here. Mr.

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Pallotta mention that the Celtic Club is a contributing force in their community, along with so many caring people in Cuyahoga Falls. Good Neighbors does a fantastic job of supporting the less fortunate in this community. Mr. Iula works down at the Falls Cancer Club. He stated he appreciates all the charitable people in this community.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-109 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

Mrs. Pyke asked if Council could get a report from the Administration on Utility Billing. Mayor Walters stated that the six billing cycles are going out in timely manner and whatever information Council requested has been provided. Mrs. Pyke asked if the commercial businesses have all been notified. Ms. Teresa Hazlett, Deputy Service Director, stated that they are working on notifying all the commercial businesses that were affected. Mrs. Pyke stated that she had made a request for homes that had not been billed the full months, resulting in a shortage in the number of bills that went out as far as sanitation and storm water. She said that she received an e-mail stating that there is a shortfall with Sanitation in the amount of \$41,050 and Storm Water in the amount of \$9,408 that needs to go out to be billed. She asked if they will be pursuing those charges. Mayor Walters stated that they are still discussing that. They are going to collect everything that is billed. Those bills that were omitted were never billed, so residents would not be aware of them. Mrs. Pyke asked if they were going to go back to recoup that money. Mr. Balthis stated that the ordinances provide that the Service Director has the discretion and authority to waive fees if they feel there's good cause, the same way they have waived late fees in the past. Mr. Balthis stated that the specifics for Sanitation and Storm Water are in different sections of the Revised Code, and that he would be happy to give Council those specifics. Mrs. Pyke stated that they have identified 2,150 households that were affected by this billing. She asked if those households were also underbilled on their monthly electric fee. Ms. Hazlett stated that it is possible that they were not charged for that. If they did not get a bill that month, they did not receive that money, but the reason they bill out a minimum consumption and a zero consumption is to capture those monthly charges. Mrs. Pyke stated that the bill no longer splits an individual service, such as water, into the components of that bill and asked if there was a flat fee attached to the water bill. Ms. Hazlett stated that, for water, there is a monthly minimum charge of \$9.50 based on consumption. It's a four or less consumption for that \$9.50 charge. Mrs. Pyke stated if the 2,150 households had minimum consumption and exceeded the number of billing days in that billing cycle, then they basically received one month of free water. Ms. Hazlett stated that was not correct. Water is based on consumption, so they would receive that the next month. They are billed at \$9.50 up to a four consumption. Mrs. Pyke asked if that could mean that there are residents out there that could have been underbilled for their water if they have a bill that exceeded 30 days. Ms. Hazlett stated that it was possible. Mrs. Pyke stated that, as of now, they are at \$50,000. If the electric fee is \$5 and they are looking at 2,000 households, that would be another \$10,000. They don't know what might be out there with Electric. She asked if this information was reflected in the audit done by the County. Ms. Hazlett stated that the County looked at only Electric charges, and not Water, Sanitation and Storm Sewer. Mrs. Pyke stated that, in looking at the billing, it seems like more comes up every week. She stated she is uncomfortable with this and is not sure if they need the

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State to come in to do an audit. She would like to know as soon as the Administration decides on how they're going to move forward on these bills.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.