

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee**

**December 19, 2016**

**Members:** Jeff Iula, Chair  
Adam Miller  
Jerry James

Mr. Iula called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from September 19, 2016 and October 17, 2016 Public Improvements Committee meetings were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Res. A-104

Temp. Ord. A-105

Temp. Ord. A-106

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Res. A-104**

A resolution creating for the year 2017 a Sidewalk and Drive Approach Repair and Replacement District containing such streets, alleys, or public roadways within the corporate limits of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, declaring the necessity of repairing or replacing the sidewalks and drive approaches abutting on such streets, alleys or public roadways within said corporate limits and providing the method for levying special assessments, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Iula stated that this is a resolution that is done each year for sidewalks and driveways. Mr. Demasi stated that they plan to bid this project on March 28th of 2017, and begin soon after school lets out.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-104 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-105**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor or his designee to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the replacement and adjustment of concrete sidewalks, drive approaches and curbs at various locations in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Iula stated that this also is an ordinance that is done every year. Mr. Demasi stated that bids will open on March 28th. Residents that have issues with their sidewalks are encouraged to contact them and they will go out and evaluate them to see if they qualify to be on the program. Mr. Iula asked if they have more than one company doing the sidewalks. Mr. Demasi stated that every year, it could be somebody different. This is a very popular contract for the contractors in the area. They usually get over 10 contracts bid on this each year.

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Mrs. Pyke asked if the handicapped ramps that are done as part of the paving program are billed through the paving program. Mr. Demasi stated that those are paid for through the paving program.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-105 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-106**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor or his designee to enter into a second modification of Contract No. 7045 with CT Consultants, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated that CT Consultants has been designing the improvements to Howe Avenue from Main Street to Bucholzer Boulevard. The project involves removal and replacement of the existing pavement, new sidewalks, traffic signals and lighting. The City is working closely with ODOT to complete the plan so that construction can begin in early 2019. Since design began in 2014, they have completed preliminary engineering, prepared right-of-way and document plans and submitted to ODOT the plans for review. Based on ODOT's comments, they are being directed to perform additional subsurface utility engineering to determine locations of underground utilities along the project, update the plans to reflect the revised maintenance traffic plans and prepare Phase I environmental site assessments on five properties. This modification, which has been reviewed and approved by ODOT, allows the consultant to proceed with the necessary work to complete the modifications and to show the planned detour during construction.

Mr. Demasi stated that the plan for this construction is contained in a public notice on the City's website. The public notice was mailed to all property owners affected and businesses in the area. They are soliciting comments from the public now, but, as the public notice states, the section of Howe Avenue between the expressway and Main Street and the exit ramps will be closed for 35 days. During that time, there will be detours set up. After that, work will begin on Howe Avenue from Main Street to Bucholzer Boulevard. Work will begin on the north side of the road first. That will take 90 days. They will then begin with the south side, and that will be for another 90 days. During that time, westbound traffic will be permitted to travel on Howe Avenue in this corridor. Eastbound traffic will be detoured down Home Avenue to Independence Avenue and then up Bucholzer Boulevard. This plan has been discussed with Akron and ODOT and everyone is on board with that detour route. Mr. Iula asked if just the exit ramps for the expressway will be closed. Mr. Demasi stated that was correct. Mr. Iula asked if cars will be able to get on the expressway at Howe Road, but must get off at either Broad Boulevard or Tallmadge Avenue. Mr. Demasi stated that was right. Mrs. Pyke asked, with this project not starting until 2019 and with the current condition of that road, what can be done now to make the road safer. Mr. Demasi stated that the Street Department has been working on that road and will continue to fill the cracks the best they can until the start of the project. If they're not plowing, they're filling cracks in the winter, and, obviously, in the summer, they're doing that continuously. Mrs. Pyke asked if they were filling those cracks in the concrete with asphalt. Mr. Demasi stated that was correct. Mr. Iona asked how these jobs are bid out and whether local contractors got any preference. Mr. Demasi stated that all their bids are posted in the Falls News-Press and other local bid sources like the Builders Exchange. Most contractors, whether small or large, subscribe to these services.

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They are advertised for two weeks. He has never had a contractor say they didn't know about a project. Mr. Iona asked if a small contractor would have a chance for that type of work. Mr. Demasi stated that a contractor must be able to bond the project and have insurance capabilities. If it is somebody they haven't worked with in the past, they will do interviews and check their references to ascertain if they are qualified to do the project based on their size, the equipment they have and their experience. Mr. Iula asked how many cars travel down Howe Road in a day. Mr. Demasi stated the intersection of Howe Avenue and Main Street gets well over 40,000 cars a day.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-106 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.