

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Improvements Committee Meeting
December 20, 2010

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Mark Ihasz
Terry Mader

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the November 15, 2010 Committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed

Sub. Temp. Ord. A-154 (dated 12-20-10)

Temp. Res. A-155

Temp. Ord. A-156

Discussion

Sub. Temp. Ord. A-154 (dated 12-20-10)

An ordinance approving the site plan of a new electric substation at 3535/3553 State Road (35-02065/35-01727), and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Walters stated the reason for the substitute was to change the street name from Cochran Road to State Road in lines 22 and 29. Mr. Guerra stated this involved two parcels and two addresses. Probably in the near future, they will consolidate them. It is for the Electric Department's new substation and is on the southeast corner of State and Cochran. It is 2.83 acres and zoned E-1 Employment Zone. On November 16, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the site plan with additional siding and building enhancements. There is a house at the back which has a 50 foot setback vs. 20 feet. There will be additional screening and mounding with trees. Mr. Walters asked whether any of the parcel would be usable for other things. Mr. Guerra stated once this gets built and they decide how to split it, there will be one more property available. The storm water will be contained and the building will be virtually quiet. There would be no outside noise but there may be some exhaust. They will shut down the old station. Mrs. Pyke asked if the topography had a creek. Mr. Guerra stated there is a drainage way that goes to Mud Brook. The only water they will have to drain is from downspouts that will flow naturally onto the property and into the stream. Mrs. Hummel stated this is a good use for this site. The challenge will be if it is split and something goes onto the other side. She is glad the Planning Commission looked at this and made some changes with the way the building looks and with the screening. She thanked the Planning Commission. Mr. Barnhart asked about the billboard that was near the property. Mr. Guerra stated that is on the other property to the south.

Mr. Mader moved to approve bringing A-154 out of Committee with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Ihasz. Motion passed, voice vote (3-0).

Temp. Res. A-155

A resolution consenting to the improvement and widening of State Road between Bath and Steels Corners Roads within the City of Cuyahoga Falls, by the State of Ohio, authorizing financial cooperation therefor, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated this and the following ordinance will allow ODOT to widen State Road from Bath Road to Steels Corners. ODOT will manage these projects instead of the City so that is why the legislation is needed. There will be 5' – 5-1/2' sidewalks and longer turn lanes. The project is approved to the cap and will provide \$700,000 for right-of-way purchases and over \$5 million for construction. On December 10, they submitted stage three drawings for the state's review. Right-of-way acquisition will begin in February, 2011 and will be completed by July, 2012. Mr. Walters stated that Paragraph (A) of Section 2 states the City will participate in the cost of eligible right-of-way and construction activities at a minimum of 20% of cost. Normally, there is a maximum amount. Mr. Demasi stated the City is on the hook for 20% of construction and anything over on costs not included. The local government must put up a minimum of 20% of a project to get AMATS. Mr. Mader stated he is excited to see this finally begin to take place. State Road definitely needs the improvements. Mr. Barnhart stated many businesses are close to the road and asked if any of them would be eliminated. Mr. Demasi stated they should not take out any of the businesses. The amount of right-of-way that will be taken varies from two feet to several feet. It goes parcel by parcel. Mr. Walters asked when it was last paved. Mr. Demasi stated from Mud Brook to Steels Corners was paved last year. From Steels Corners north it has not been paved in several years. The project will begin in October, 2012.

Mr. Ihasz moved to approve bringing A-155 out of Committee with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Mader. Motion passed, voice vote (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-156

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to cooperate with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation in the improvement of State Road between Bath Road and Steels Corners Road, to enter into a contract or contracts with the State of Ohio for the purpose of contributing the City's share of the costs therefor, to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for related preliminary design engineering services, and declaring an emergency.

This is the ordinance that pertains to Res. A-155. Mr. Walters asked about Section 2(F) which says if the City hires a consulting service using federal funds, it must comply with certain law. Mr. Demasi stated the City will be hiring a consultant next year to acquire the right-of-way for the City. When the City advertises and negotiates the fees with the consultant, it will be in compliance with that law. This is different than what we do normally. There are quite a few differences. They advertise locally but must also post notices on the website, use the government's evaluation forms, and send them to them so they can approve it.

Mr. Mader moved to approve bringing A-156 out of Committee with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Ihasz. Motion passed, voice vote (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.