

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
February 16, 2010**

Members: Mark Ihasz, Chair
Kathy Hummel
Jeff Iula

Mr. Ihasz called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation to be Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-32

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-32

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

Capt. Davis stated this was for three items, two of which were housekeeping. They want to eliminate parking on Wyoga Lake Road and Northampton, south of Steels Corners. There is no signage there nor is there any documentation in Traffic Control prohibiting parking. They also want to eliminate the “no turn on red” on Graham. The new CVS store eliminated the sight problem. The parking elimination came about during a small snow storm. There was a car parked on Northampton but there was nothing on the book prohibiting it. Mr. Ihasz asked when the signage would be put up. Capt. David stated it would be in the spring with the thaw. The Street Department is busy right now. Mr. Mader asked if they were talking about a specific distance on Northampton Road. Capt. Davis stated it would be both sides of Steels Corner Rd., the whole length of road. Mrs. Pyke asked why there was no right turn heading north on Oakwood. Capt. Davis said there was a sight issue with vehicles parked at the repair shop.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-32.

Bill Rhines, 1868 Windsor Street, stated he has had issues during the recent snowfalls with a neighbor’s contractor plowing snow onto Mr. Rhines’ sidewalk after he had already shoveled it. He called the Service Department and was told that the snow had to be put somewhere. He said the contractor should be able to plow without putting it on his property where he already shoveled. The last time, the neighbor’s son came over and cleaned the sidewalks off. Mrs. Car stated they have received a couple of calls. That is not how they typically handle them. There was one call where the City went out and cleared it. They have asked the contractors to go back and take care of the snow. If they received calls, they sent people out. She does not know what happened with Mr. Rhines’ call but will make sure her staff knows what they are doing. Mrs. Klinger stated the City has an ordinance on the books that residents have to keep the sidewalks clear, particularly if homes are owned by banks. She asked why that isn’t being enforced. Ms. Jones stated this snow is a huge magnitude. It is difficult for people to get out there. If they get an address of a vacant home or business, they will send a letter out to encourage people to clear sidewalks. They have never enforced people to do this. The concern is if the City does it on a foreclosed house, they may also be doing it to an elderly person. They cannot do selective enforcement. There is also an issue of personal insurance. There is more liability on a home owner if he clears his sidewalk than if he just left the snow alone. The Law Department will be sending out letters. Mrs. Klinger stated if the City has a law on the books, why don’t they enforce it. Ms. Jones stated it is not that it is not enforceable, but with the magnitude of snow, it is tough. The solution right now is to encourage

people to follow the law. Mrs. Klinger stated that kids are walking in the streets to go to school and people are walking in the streets at night. It creates a bad situation. What is happening is not working. There needs to be a better solution. Mrs. Carr stated they are targeting business areas where they receive the most complaints. Mr. Ihasz stated that Portage Trail is a joke. Kids are walking in the street to go to Bolich. Ms. Jones stated if she was a parent, she would encourage kids not to use Portage Trail. Mrs. Pyke stated it is difficult for a lot of residents at Sutcliffe. She hoped the City was clearing its sidewalks. She asked who residents should call if they have issues. Mrs. Carr stated they should call her. Mr. Iula asked how the City's salt supply was doing. Mrs. Carr said it is doing fine. The salt reserves are in good shape. She is proud of the employees on the good job they did on the big snows. Mr. Iula asked about the finances because of overtime. Mrs. Carr stated they were doing good until Friday but this weekend set them back. They continue to watch it everyday. Mrs. Pyke asked if the observation bridge could be cleared. Mrs. Carr stated that Sue's crew or the Park & Rec crew will check it. Mr. Rhines stated there was a parking ban but no officers were citing parked cars. People need to move their cars. Mrs. Carr stated she works closely with the Police Department. They went out to Birchwood and ticketed ten cars. They cannot be every where. They target the areas they get the calls on. Mr. Ihasz asked if the parking ban was in effect until the street was plowed. Mrs. Carr stated the parking ban is in effect if snow is 2" or more on the streets. They need to stay clear until the ban is lifted. Mr. Ihasz stated that is not what he was told by the Police Department. Mrs. Carr stated she will talk to them. Sometimes they will lift it early but it is supposed to be throughout the entire ban.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.