

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council  
Minutes of the Public Improvements Committee Meeting  
February 16, 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.

**Legislation to be Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. A-17  
Temp. Ord. A-27  
Temp. Ord. A-28  
Temp. Ord. A-29  
Temp. Ord. A-30  
Temp. Ord. A-31

**Discussion**

**Temp. Ord. A-27**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract, and/or contracts, according to law, to facilitate the environmental cleanup and redevelopment of the Buckeye Mixed-Use Redevelopment Project, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated the department applied for a grant last year for \$1.8 million which was used to remediate the soil. This will allow Finance to appropriate the money. The project will begin as soon as Council approves the legislation. Work includes draining and dredging the pond.

***Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-27.***

**Temp. Ord. A-28**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the demolition and removal of demolition debris from dangerous buildings located at 2241 Oakwood Drive and certifying the cost thereof to the County Fiscal Officer for collection in the manner provided by law, and declaring an emergency.

Peter Bell stated this is for the house across the street from the Nat. They have had ongoing dealings with the owner and architect to get the house torn down. It is very unsafe and the City would like to get this going. The owner has not worked on the property since December 17 and that was just to put a fence out. He has talked to the owners, Community Development has talked to the owners, and written letters have been sent. They need to get something going on this. It is dangerous. It was to be refurbished in December 2008. The owner got a second architect and the plan was then to tear the house down and construct a new building. They held off on the legislation so the owner could do a CRA agreement. He took out a permit, started work, then quit and he is not responding to any of the City's requests.

Mr. Walters stated that the original plans were to purchase the property and the property next door because of the parking lot. Mrs. Truby stated that was maybe ten years ago but when this individual came forward, it was to build a finance consulting business. He has been unresponsive. They are thinking of

rescinding the CRA ordinance as well. Mrs. Pyke asked if the owner lived in Green. Mrs. Truby stated he did.

*Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-28.*

**Temp. Ord. A-29**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the resurfacing and/or repair of Front Street from the Akron corporation line to Second Street in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated that, in 2008, the City applied for federal funds to repave Front Street. It was decided to extend the paving to the Akron corporation line. This section was last paved in 1991. He estimates two weeks to complete. Bids were opened last week and were sent to ODOT for its approval. They will be paving to the bridge. Mrs. Pyke stated this is a much needed resurfacing. She asked if the project would still go forward if the City does not get the money. Mr. Demasi stated they already have the money. There is \$82,800 carried over from last year. ODOT held up on the review which is why the project did not get done last year. Mr. Walters asked why this wasn't included with the annual street resurfacing. Mr. Demasi stated these are different projects. They are using federal money which needs to be run through ODOT standards and protocols. They thought it would be best to keep them separate.

*Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-29.*

**Temp. Ord. A-30**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the resurfacing and/or repair of Graham Road from Bath Road to State Road in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated that the City applied for this section to be paved using federal money. They received over \$500,000. It was last paved in 1993. Bids were opened last week and sent to ODOT for review. The contract should be awarded as soon as possible. Mr. Walters asked if it was a rebuild from Bath to Route 8. Mr. Demasi stated it is a widening and they are extending the turn lanes and providing turn lanes where none exist. Mr. Walters stated that when they did this section last time, there was a problem between Bailey and Hudson. Hopefully, they will watch that.

Mrs. Colavecchio was excited to see this happen. She asked if there were additional plans with traffic signalization at the intersection of Bath and Graham. She has received calls from people eastbound on Graham turning left on Bath. Mr. Demasi stated this is just a paving project. He is aware of requests for some left turn signalization for eastbound traffic. His hope is that now that they will be providing a double left turn from Bath onto Graham, they can shorten that green light and lengthen it for eastbound traffic. Mrs. Klinger asked what the total amount of the grant was. Mr. Demasi stated it was \$552,920.

*Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-30.*

**Temp. Ord. A-31**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for fiber optic cable construction, which consists of fiber optic communications to all of our existing substations, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Carr stated that this is the first phase of the project in the City. They are investigating to include treatment plants, which could be a Phase II. They are also checking with Tech Service in terms of

signalization, so they plan to be back for additional authorization. Jeff McHugh stated they will be putting all of the pump stations in communication with the loop that exists around town. This will allow them to redirect electric if there is a break in the fiber. Mr. Walters asked what this will do to improving the monitoring of substations. Mr. McHugh stated there would be quicker relaying. Right now, everything is on phone lines, which is slow. Fiber will mean newer and faster relays. John Konich added that this is Phase I of a City-wide project. It will eliminate the use of phone lines. The City pays close to \$3,000 on phone lines for communications. Mrs. Klinger asked if there was a written plan for this project. Mrs. Carr stated they are phasing it in internally. Mr. Konich stated the plan is to eliminate phone lines, which is primarily what Electric and Water are using. Fiber is much more reliable. Mrs. Klinger stated she would like to see an overall plan so Council could understand it better. Mr. Konich stated they should be ready to do that in the next month. Mrs. Pyke asked if the City would maintain the phone lines and the trees that are in the devil's strip. Mr. Konich stated they would have to. Asplin did it previously. Mrs. Carr stated anywhere they string fiber, they incorporate it into tree trimming. Mrs. Carr stated Council should contact her if they have a question about tree trimming.

***Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. 31.***

**Temp. Ord. A-17**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of major equipment needed to replace Substation #4, and declaring an emergency.

They took bids for substation for higher voltage. This will be the design that fits wherever we go. Mr. Walters stated this legislation had been placed on hold because the location and equipment could change. Mrs. Carr stated they wanted to verify everything. They were looking at three locations. This will work in either location. Mr. Walters stated this is for purchase of the equipment and asked if the City will do the installation. Mr. McHugh stated they will be doing a good part of it themselves and the rest will be contracted out. Mr. Walters asked for a timeline when Substation 4 will be gone or when this new one will be up and running. Mrs. Carr stated they will coordinate removal of Substation 4 with the installation of this substation. They can shift power temporarily during the transition. Mr. Walters stated that Substation 4 has outlived its usefulness and asked if any others were coming due as well. Mrs. Carr stated that Substation 5, which is behind the Service Center, is about the same age so they will be targeting that next. One area they were looking at for the new substation is partly in Ward 8 and partly in Ward 5. It creates a triangular ability in terms of the City's power. Mr. McHugh stated Substation 4 is not capable of handling new development. The new substation will be able to handle State Road, Bath Road and the new development on State Road. They want to upgrade to more efficient voltage plus have more capacity. Mr. Walters asked when the location will be known. Mrs. Carr stated they are trying to use the property on Cochran Road. They feel there is a high potential that it will work for the City. The City already owns the property and it is in the perfect location. It is not just for Portage Crossing but for the developments going in off Bath Road. They need to be able to serve those as well. The City purchased the property in 2006. It is a little over six acres. They purchased it to move a S. Front St. business there but he ended up moving to Akron. They have tried to market the area but details have fallen apart. Timing is good for the City to do this. There is an opportunity the City could still market the front part of the property. Mr. Walters stated it is good to use something they already own. If the location is right, it makes sense. Mr. Barnhart stated he does not understand the triangulation concept but he does know that substations are not very pleasant to look at. Mr. McHugh stated he is thinking about what is at Oak Park. These are not outdoor and will look more like a warehouse building. Mrs. Carr stated they improve every time they do one of these. They are looking at aesthetics. Mrs. Pyke asked if it would service the hospital or would the hospital have to have its own. Mr. McHugh stated there would have to another substation to serve the hospital. Mrs. Pyke asked how many substations the City had. Mr. McHugh stated there were 13.

*Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-17.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.