

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting**  
**February 16, 2016**

**Members:** Vic Pallotta, Chair  
Adam Miller  
Jerry James

Mr. Pallotta called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members were present.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. A-9

Temp. Ord. A-10

**Discussion**

Mr. Pallotta stated that the minutes from the last Public Affairs Committee meeting will be distributed this week. He stated that he would like to discuss the problems Council has been having with the sound system, and that he would like to go over some suggestions made by the Natatorium staff.

Mr. Pallotta stated that when using the microphone, it needs to be moved by its base and pointed toward your mouth or chin. The microphone should be kept at arm's length, or preferably closer, to maximize sound. To reduce overall feedback, microphones need to be shut off, using the lighted red button, when finished speaking. Mr. Pallotta stated that there were adjustments made in the sound room, but this is as loud as the microphones get without causing interference.

**Temp. Ord. A-9**

An ordinance amending various sections of the Codified Ordinances to conform to State law, approving the 2015 replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Pallotta asked Mr. Balthis to present this legislation. Mr. Balthis stated that this ordinance is a routine ordinance that is passed every year. It brings the City's ordinances into compliance with any changes in State Law over the past year. It also incorporates any new law over the previous year that should be added to the City's codified ordinances. He stated that every member of Council should have received a hard copy of the new codified ordinances. There are also CD's available. It will also update on the City's website, so that the public will have access to the City's codified ordinances.

Mr. Pallotta stated that this is done each year. He stated that it saves the City a considerable amount of money by using the company that updates the codified ordinances. Mr. Pallotta asked Mr. Balthis if he had any idea what the difference in cost is, in man hours and time, for the City to do this. Mr. Balthis stated it would be immense. The contract with Walter H. Drane Company is \$5,651 a year. This is the first year that it went over \$5,000. That was predominantly because of the additional work regarding the recently-updated tax code and the additional pages that added to it. He stated that this company does this service for many communities across Ohio. They have the ability to keep up on following all the State law changes and making sure they're all incorporated. Mr. Balthis stated that he could not even begin to imagine how much time it would take one person assigned to track all

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State law to sure none of them conflict with City ordinances. He stated that having the Walter H. Drane Company is a good deal.

Mr. Pallotta said he agreed. He said that the cost of printing the changes in the codified ordinances is \$15, so it is not much of a savings to stop printing a hard copy to give to Council. The changes are also available online and on CD. Mr. Pallotta asked for a show of hands from Council as to how many members would like to have hard copies. No one raised their hand. Mr. Balthis stated that that if there is a member of Council that would like a hard copy of the codified ordinances, they can e-mail him in advance and he will provide it; if not, the electronic form can be used. He stated that the website has not been updated yet, because Council has not yet voted on them. Right now, the only access would be the hard copy. Mr. Balthis stated that he would also make sure that the CD is available. Mr. Pallotta asked if it could be scanned and e-mailed to the members of Council. Mr. Balthis said absolutely, and noted that, this year, the packet is significantly thicker because of the income tax legislation.

Mr. Pallotta thanked Mr. Balthis. Mr. Pallotta stated there was different company that makes sure that the City's Civil Service laws are in compliance. Mr. Balthis stated that the company the City has contracted with in order to make sure that Cuyahoga Falls is current with their Civil Service Commission rules and regulations is Clemons-Nelson. The contact there is Robin Bell. The City has had a contract with this company for over five years. After it was found that there was some deviation between State law and Civil Service rules, the City conferred with Clemons-Nelson, and going forward, requested that as part of their engagement, they notify the City of any changes needed to update the City Service Rules, so that the Civil Service Committee can be advised. The price during that time has not increased. Mr. Pallotta thanked Mr. Balthis.

Mrs. Pyke asked Mr. Balthis if there are CD's available to Council. Mr. Balthis stated that he would be happy to make them available. He stated their cost as \$50 apiece, but there are enough CD's available for all of Council. Mrs. Pyke stated that she would like one if there was an extra available at no cost. Mr. Balthis said that he was sure he could provide her one at no cost. He stated that the only reason he was familiar with the cost was because he had worked with Councilman Pallotta to try to make things less expensive. Mr. Balthis stated that, normally, the electronic version provides a savings, but, in this case, the opposite was true. He stated that most people use the website to look up the ordinances, but he would be happy to provide Mrs. Pyke with a copy of the CD.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-9 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-10**

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

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Mr. Pallotta asked Chief Davis to address Council. Chief Davis stated there were three items that came out of the Traffic Control Committee. The first item was to prohibit parking on the north of School Avenue between Newberry Street and Germaine Street. The second item is to increase the length of the parking prohibition on the east side of Germaine to 200 feet south of Portage Trail. The third item would be the privet parking in the cul-de-sac on Ruth Avenue. These were all approved by the Traffic Control Committee at their last meeting.

Mr. Pallotta stated that there is already no parking on the south side of School Avenue. That street is very narrow with deep ditches on the side. Chief Davis stated that most of that street is no parking on either side, and this ordinance brings it in line with the rest of the street. Mr. Pallotta stated that on Ruth Avenue, the cul-de-sac is a dead end with not much room to turn. Chief Davis stated that Mr. Pallotta was correct in that it is not much of a cul-de-sac since the road ends there. Chief Davis stated the other item in the ordinance was to allow more accessibility for sanitation trucks, plow trucks, fire trucks, et cetera, by pushing it back a little bit.

Mr. James stated he had lived on Ruth Avenue about four houses from the cul-de-sac and it is very narrow. Mr. Pallotta asked if Mr. James thought anybody on the street would mind the installation of the no parking signs. Mr. James stated that he didn't think so. Mr. Pallotta stated that he has this thing about just going ahead and doing something and what kind of response you're going to get from the neighbors. Mr. James stated there have never been any complaints from that end, other than barking dogs and kids coming up and down the park hill.

Mrs. Pyke asked Chief Davis who made the request for Number 1 and Number 2. Chief Davis stated all requests came from Chuck Novak of the Street Commission. Mrs. Pyke asked if the residents were notified on these two streets. Chief Davis stated that they send out the Traffic Control Committee Agenda to all Council members, but do not contact the individual residents. Mrs. Pyke asked Mr. James if this was his ward. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that it was her ward. Mrs. Pyke asked if the neighbors were notified. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated she was at the Traffic Control Committee meeting and, apparently, there was a missing stop sign in that area. When the Street Department went out to that location, they realized that, because of the narrowness of the street, it was not in compliance with an ordinance that requires that there be no parking on a street that is 26-foot wide or less. This ordinance is to bring the streets into compliance. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that she didn't think it was going to be a problem, because people aren't parking there. Mr. Pallotta thanked Chief Davis.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-10 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.