

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Community Development Committee Meeting
February 17, 2009

Members: Mark Ihasz, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Ihasz called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the December 1, 2008 committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Res. B-17

Discussion:

Temp. Res. B-17

A resolution authorizing the City of Cuyahoga Falls to file an application with the State of Ohio to participate in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated that the City is eligible for over \$783,000 for this program. Cuyahoga Falls will need to put together a plan and receive approval in order to obtain these monies. They will be targeting foreclosed and abandoned homes. Mrs. Truby distributed a handout which showed nine targeted areas. The application is due on February 27 and the funding will be announced on April 1.

Jonathan Daily spoke about the program and the handout. He stated that the four-year program is the federal government's response to the housing crisis. The City will be required to spend all of the funds, which need to go toward abandoned and foreclosed properties. HUD data was used to compile the list/chart that was distributed along with local data from foreclosure sales. Mr. Daily indicated that the City would ideally like to do six homes. This would involve acquiring, rehabbing and reselling the properties. He indicated there would also be some monies for assistance with down payments along with the demolition of some homes as well. Mrs. Pyke was concerned about block 520202-2 which was not included in the targeted area. She stated she will not support this legislation without that block added. Mrs. Truby indicated she would look further into that particular block. Mrs. Colavecchio inquired about the homes that would be demolished with this plan and asked whether the City had the right to do this demolition. Mr. Daily indicated these homes would follow the same procedures for blighted homes that have been demolished in the past. Mr. Walters indicated he would be in favor of additional demolitions and felt this will improve some neighborhoods.

Mrs. Hummel asked where the profit from this would go. Mr. Daily stated that the City is not permitted to make any profit on this project. It would be required to break even or take a loss. Mrs. Pyke asked if the City could do something similar to the Project Partner home on Bailey Road. Mrs. Truby indicated they did not intend to do that same type of extensive remodeling work.

Mr. Ihasz asked how long it would take to begin the project once approval was received. Mr. Daily indicated the City is currently compiling a list of the properties and is hoping to begin quickly. He agreed to provide Council members with a copy of the list.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-17.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

