

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Affairs Committee

February 2, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pallotta, Chair, at 6:41 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Without objection, the minutes of the December 15, 2014 and January 20, 2015 meetings were approved as submitted.

Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. B-14

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as the Director of Public Safety to enter into agreements with various cities and townships for the provision of prisoner confinement services, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Chief of Police Jack Davis. Chief Davis stated that the County jail will no longer provide jails space for prisoners from outside Akron. Other jurisdictions have inquired about housing their prisoners with Cuyahoga Falls. The primary need is for individuals charged with domestic violence. The Cuyahoga Falls jail has 10 cells and on average 7 of them are in use. The City currently houses prisoners from Tallmadge and Silver Lake pursuant to other agreements. Cuyahoga Falls prisoners would have priority and the City will have discretion to refuse to house any prisoner, for example, for medical reasons. The arrangement would benefit the City because the City will charge for this service.

The Chair asked how long the average stay is. Chief Davis stated it is 3-4 days. The Chair asked if any drug or alcohol overdose cases would be received. Chief Davis stated that anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol is booked and taken to a detox center, not to the jail.

The Chair asked what communities are interested in this arrangement. Chief Davis stated he would like to contract with Bath, Mogadore, Monroe Falls, and Stow. The Chair asked what would happen if the jail is full with prisoners from other cities at the time when a Cuyahoga Falls prisoner must be housed. Chief Davis stated the department would emergency release a prisoner if necessary. The Chair asked if the fees charged will cover the City's costs. Chief Davis stated that they will.

The Chair recognized Mr. Weinhardt, who asked what the cost is for housing a prisoner versus the fee charged. Chief Davis stated the City incurs a cost of roughly \$20/day to house a prisoner.

The Chair recognized Ms. Pyke, who asked how much the City charges to house a prisoner. Chief Davis stated that the current charge under the existing contract is \$71.03 per day. Mrs. Pyke asked what the basis is for this charge. Chief Davis stated it is based on the charges imposed by nearby communities when the Tallmadge contract was negotiated 4 years ago. Mrs. Pyke asked if the Council members may receive a copy of the agreement to be authorized by this ordinance. Chief Davis agreed to provide it. Mrs. Pyke asked for a list of what other communities are currently charging for jail space. Chief Davis stated he did not have this information, but would provide it. Mrs. Pyke asked if the increase in jail population would require more staffing. Chief Davis stated it would not. The jail is not staffed. The shift commander is responsible for the jail.

The Chair recognized Mr. James, who asked how many prisoners in the current jail population are from Cuyahoga Falls. Chief Davis stated that the City housed 70 prisoners from Tallmadge in 2014 out of 679 bookings.

The Chair recognized Mr. Colavecchio, who asked how many prisoners the Chief expects to house from other communities. Chief Davis stated he anticipates no more than 10-12 additional prisoners in a year.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked if the other community will pay if a prisoner has a special need such as medical care. The Chief stated that the other community will pay.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.


Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. B-14 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked if the City is using reserve officers to issue tickets during the snow ban. The Chief stated "when they are available." Mrs. Pyke asked how many tickets had been issued during the snow ban. The Chief stated about 70 tickets had been issued since January 1. Mrs. Pyke asked if these tickets were the result of resident complaints or street department referrals. The Chief stated he did not have this information.

Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

  
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Victor Pallotta, Chair

  
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Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council