

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Improvements Committee Meeting

March 16, 2015

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lula, Chair, at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes Without objection, the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. B-25 An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the annual resurfacing and/or repair of various streets as described in Exhibit 'A' attached hereto, in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was provided by City Engineer Tony Demasi. Mr. Demasi stated that this is the annual ordinance authorizing the City to proceed with its paving program. The City will be utilizing a combination of methods to repave the streets, including in-house repaving for some streets and "chip & seal." The bidding process will begin on April 5 of this year and bids will be opened on April 21. This year's paving budget is increased \$500,000 over 2014. No streets are scheduled for full rebuild. Due to these factors and anticipated favorable oil prices, the City expects to pave over 7 linear miles or 15½ lane miles. This is a 25% increase over 2014. The streets proposed for repaving are listed in Exhibit A. This list is dependent on oil prices. Oil prices have steadily declined over the last 12 months. The ODOT asphalt placing index has dropped over 17% since October 2014. It is now at the lowest level since March 2011. The City is hopeful that all of the streets listed on the Exhibit A will be paved this year.

The Chair asked Mr. Demasi to review the criteria used to assess whether a street segment will be placed on the repaving list. Mr. Demasi stated there are 10 different criteria including transverse cracking, elevator cracking, rutting, and utility patching. The

City assigns each of these criteria a value, which are averaged to give that street segment an overall rating. Every street in the city is rated. The most recent rating was done in November and December of 2014. The Chair asked the number of miles of streets in the city. Mr. Demasi stated there are over 270 linear miles. The Chair stated he has made his own assessment and found some streets in dire need of repaving that are not on Exhibit A, including a portion of Portage Trail near Bolich Middle School and Grove Street. Mr. Demasi stated that Grove and Keenan were rated similarly last year, but the decision was made to put Keenan on the list. The Chair asked why the Woodridge High School parking lot is on the list. Mr. Demasi stated that the City entered into a Revenue Sharing Agreement with Woodridge Local School District in 2006, related to the tax abatement granted to GOJO in the same year. The City agreed to perform asphalt repairs to the District's properties within the City for a period of 15 years. The District pays for the material and the City provides the machinery, equipment and labor. This year the District has committed \$40,000 for the material. The High School was rated as the worst of the school district properties located in the city and the District agreed. The Chair noted that the Cuyahoga Falls City School District does not have any similar arrangement. The Chair asked how many street segments were fully reconstructed in the last 5 years. Mr. Demasi stated that Johnson Avenue from Oakwood to Bailey was rebuilt over a period of the prior two years at a total cost of \$550,000. The City did no rebuilds in the three year period between 2010 and 2012. Victor Avenue was rebuilt in 2009, and portions of Portage Trail were rebuilt in 2006 and 2008.

The Chair asked if potholes will be fixed on the streets that are not selected for resurfacing. The Service Director responded that the City has three shifts devoted to repairing potholes from December through April. Whenever they are not working snow events, they are repairing potholes with cold patch. Complaints received by telephone are reviewed by a supervisor and are usually addressed within 1 or 2

days. Cold patch is used until the asphalt plants open.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked if there is a way to have the condition of 6th Street between Grant and Horace reviewed again. Mr. Demasi stated that the section between Grant and Horace was rated in conjunction with adjacent sections of 6th Street, and the condition of this section, although it would have been on the list if it had been considered alone, did not cause the street as a whole to reach the level where it would be placed on the list, considering budgetary constraints. Mrs. Pyke stated the condition of the street, as well as the intersection of Grant and 4th, is also causing a storm water issue because the pavement has shifted from traffic damage to the point where it is blocking storm water drainage. Mr. Demasi stated that the problem could also be looked at as a storm water issue, thus calling upon different budgetary sources, but ultimately this street will need to be fully rebuilt so that it has proper curbs and gutters. Mrs. Pyke asked if anything will be done about a sink hole on 14th Street between Grant and Chestnut that was reported last year. Mr. Demasi stated he will review this issue. Mrs. Pyke asked if Mr. Demasi would provide the scoring list of street segments reviewed for inclusion in the pavement program. Mr. Demasi stated that he would provide the list, which includes 900 street segments reviewed. Mrs. Pyke asked if the administration will consider grinding pavement to improve drainage in streets where gutter plates have been paved over with asphalt. Mr. Demasi stated that in most cases this is not feasible because it would reduce the pavement thickness to a point where the street would fail within a year. For this reason, it is the City's policy, when repaving a street, to grind the gutter plate to remove the asphalt, and pave it over again. Mrs. Pyke stated that there should be a solution to this problem because over-paved streets prevent homeowners' sump pumps from operating properly, and prevents water from reaching catch basins. Mr. Demasi stated that curbs and gutters can be adjusted, but this would require the adjustment of drive approaches as well. The cost would be prohibitive.

The Chair asked if Francis Street could be removed from the list to permit 6th Street to be added. Mr. Demasi stated this is permissible. Mrs. Pyke stated she would like to see the scoring of the street segments.

The Chair recognized Mr. Weinhardt, who asked if there is a process for removing and adding streets to the list submitted by the administration. Mr. Demasi stated that the list is the administration's recommendation and City Council makes the final decision. Mr. Weinhardt asked how citizens can notify the administration of streets that have deteriorated significantly since the time this list was prepared last November. Mr. Demasi said the program is flexible and that streets can be added and deleted as needed.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who stated that the list is a recommendation even after the ordinance is passed, and members should not rely on it as a definitive statement of the paving program.

The Chair recognized Mr. Rubino, who thanked the administration and the Council for increasing the budget for this year by 25%.

The Chair recognized Mr. Colavecchio, who asked if traffic volume is one of the criteria used to determine whether a street segment is placed on the list. Mr. Demasi said the rating system does not prioritize based on the type of street. This is because safety forces need to drive on all the streets.

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

Motion by Mr. Mader to release Temp. Ord. B-25 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Brillhart. Motion adopted by acclamation.

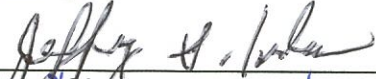
Non-Agenda Items

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked Mr. Demasi to comment on the occurrence of three apparent water main breaks on 8th Street between Chestnut and Grant, less than one year after the water main was replaced. Mr. Demasi stated that the


Contractor was making punch list repairs required by the contract after the City discovered that construction of the new water main had severed sewer lines in several places. This work is not costing the City any money. Mrs. Pyke asked if this is the same contractor that was awarded the Second Street water main project. Mr. Demasi stated that it is.

Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Lula adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



Jeff Lula, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council