

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee**

March 21, 2016

Members: Vic Pallotta, Chair
Adam Miller
Jerry James

Mr. Pallotta called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the January 19, 2016, February 8, 2016 and February 16, 2016 meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-23

Temp. Res. A-24

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-23

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Pipeline Initiative Grant Agreement with the Ohio History Connection and to increase appropriations and approve payment of grant funds, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Guerra stated that this is a \$4,000 Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Pipeline Initiative Grant that will help the City, the CIC and Coming Attractions Development, LLC complete a Type-A Project National Register nomination for the Falls Theater. The primary goal of this initiative is to develop a pipeline of properties that are eligible for redevelopment assistance through the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. Once properties are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, competitive applications can be filed to seek tax credit awards. The eligible activities for Type-A projects include costs associated with research and consulting in order to complete forms to nominate buildings to the National Register of Historic Places. As a part of the process of the renovation of the Falls Theater, Coming Attractions Development, LLC, and Lauren Burge, of Chambers, Murphy & Burge, will be completing the nomination for the National Register for the theater. This money was available to help with those costs, so the grant was applied for and received, and Lauren Burge is working on that National Register nomination. Mr. Guerra stated that Mrs. Burge was present to answer any specific questions.

Mrs. Pyke thanked Mrs. Burge, Mr. Burge and their team for all of their hard work on this project. This is going to be one of the major catalysts in the public viewing Front Street as a street that needs to be opened, because whenever there is negative feedback, when people are told that the Falls Theater could be opened as a brewery with live performances and it can only happen if Front Street opens, they tend to soften to the idea of the street being open. Mrs. Burge thanked Mrs. Pyke.

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Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-23 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Res. A-24

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant to construct a trail and trailhead in the Mud Brook Greenway, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Guerra stated that the City in the process of attempting to apply for the Clean Ohio Fund Recreational Trail Grant in order to construct a trail, create wetland enhancement areas and to stabilize Mud Brook Creek's stream bank in the area between Pleasant Meadow and East Bath Road. This is part of the Mill Pond/Mud Brook Greenway Master Plan. Those plans were just finished recently. This money was available, so it was decided that the City should apply for these funds, because it's a pretty substantial grant amount. The maximum is \$850,000. It does require a 25-percent match. That \$850,000 will do a lot of those things that in the master plan: The building of trails, doing some stream restoration and creating areas that we can store water during heavy rains and floods.

Mr. Guerra stated that word is expected back from this grant in late 2016. This resolution, to apply for the funds. There will be a future ordinance that will appropriate funds. The matching funds of 25-percent of the final amount applied for will come from the General Fund. A US EPA clean-up grant application will be made in the fall of 2016, because of the Gun Club, the Mud Brook Gun Club. If that grant is obtained, it can be used as part of the matching funds. Katherine Holmok, from EDG, is here to answer any questions you have. They are putting the application together for us. And, again, this is -- it's a good opportunity for us. We usually don't get this opportunity with, once we finish a plan, to immediately apply for funds, and we're able to do that now. So, we're pretty excited. It's very competitive program, but I think we have a pretty competitive application.

Ms. Holmok stated that the Clean Ohio Trail Fund Grant is a bond issue authorized by Governor Taft in the year 2000. It was overwhelmingly reauthorized in 2006 by voters in all 88 counties. Due to our state bonding capacity, it was increased from the maximum grant application request of \$500,000 to \$850,000, so it will be more competitive, but they do have more money, this time, to give out. This is not the entire Greenway plan. It is approximately one mile of trail in the northern half. The reason for looking at this area is due to some development that's happened and, also, looking through the plan, what can make the greatest impact to the environment, flooding and connections for trails. This part of the project has those three items and can be matched potentially with a US EPA grant application in the fall to assist with that flood plain restoration which would assist with flooding mitigation in that area.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked Ms. Holmok about her experience in writing these applications and, based on that experience, what chances the City has in having a successful grant. Ms. Holmok stated that she has been very fortunate to have written multiple successful grants on this project. She has previously worked for Lorain County Metro Parks and Medina County Park District, as well as currently working on funding applications for a trail for the City of Wadsworth. It's a very

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wonderful program run through the State. Ms. Holmok stated that she thinks the City has a good application, because the plan that's been approved by Council, has public support and has good match potential. Because it is off road, it provides a different experience to the bike lanes that are on State Road and has the potential to link neighborhoods that don't already have sidewalks. So, it's really got a lot going for it.

Mr. Brillhart stated to Mr. Guerra that there have been a lot of challenges in that area, and that the City is very fortunate to have had a lot of input and just a lot of creative solutions from you from the Administration. He stated that it has been a real pleasure working with Miss Holmok. Although there have been a lot of issues raised on behalf of his constituents, a lot of people feel we are now on the path to solving some of these problems, and it is appreciated.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-24 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.