

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee**

**March 6, 2017**

**Members:** Jeff Iula, Chair  
Adam Miller  
Mary Nichols-Rhodes

Mr. Iula called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All members were present.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. B-18

Temp. Ord. B-19

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-18**

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.

Mr. Iula stated that this the City's normal resurfacing and repairs to the city streets. It is in the budget at the same amount as last year, about \$2 million. The City will be resurfacing and grinding at least 28 streets in the city. There are a couple streets that aren't on this list that people have asked him about. He asked Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, why they aren't looking at North Haven, for example, because it's one block and a mile long. Mr. Demasi stated that North Haven has one lane of one block that's bad. When there is a section of road that is literally one lane of one block, it doesn't make sense to do a total resurface of that road. Their funds can be better utilized by having the Street Department go out and make some repairs. Mr. Iula stated that it seems at least every ward has at least one street that is being repaired. Two large ones are West Bath Road and State Road. Mr. Demasi stated that those streets are the two big highlights from this year. State Road, from Broad Boulevard to the bridge, finishes out what was started there two years ago when they did Schiller Avenue to Valley Road and then Valley Road to Broad Boulevard last year. West Bath Road is one of the City's roads that is a multi-jurisdictional. There are sections that are in Akron. It was on Akron's radar screen to pave it and invoice Cuyahoga Falls for their part. Through discussions with them, it was decided that Cuyahoga Falls is going to pave it and invoice the City of Akron for their part. Akron will be presenting legislation to their Council to authorize that. Mr. Iula stated that if they do manage to come under budget, they hopefully might be able to do a couple more streets. Mr. Demasi stated that is what happened last year. They came back and asked for more money, because the bids came in favorably and they could add few more streets. Mr. Iula stated that they did an excellent job last year and hopes they can do more streets this year. Mrs. Pyke stated they she would never ask for Hillcrest to be done, since it was just done recently, but there is a section of patch where Meriline meets it and goes from cement to asphalt. She asked if there any way they could have that area ground down. In her opinion, it is extremely bad in that one section and the way they fixed it was patchwork. Mr. Demasi stated that he will look at it. Mrs. Pyke asked if they calculate the number of streets that are done by square foot or by mile of street and how would they compare the amount that they are doing per year. Mr. Demasi stated the conventional way is lane miles, but it can be done by square yard or any type of

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area. Mrs. Pyke asked how does it compare this year, in lane miles, to what they've been doing. Mr. Demasi stated that they are scheduled to be about the same as last year, about 18 lane miles. The bids are scheduled to be open on April 11th. Mr. Pallotta asked about the base for the cement and asphalt. Mr. Demasi stated that there is a textile fabric that is used in the soil for stabilization that provides stability for the subgrade that might be unstable and, also, there is a metal grid that is used. The City of Cuyahoga Falls dowels the joints with dowel rods, but the mass of concrete in between the joints is non-reinforced. Mr. Pallotta asked if they use that on aprons. Mr. Demasi stated that they do not allow reinforced sidewalks and aprons. The reason for that is if they have to go back later and identify utilities with markers, it messes up their equipment. Anything in the right-of-way is non-reinforced except for the joints.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-18 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-19**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the design-build services necessary to conduct Phase II instream and riparian restoration of Kelsey Creek, and for associated stream bank restoration, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Iula stated that this ordinance is also budgeted and split into two years, with this year being \$150,000. Ms. Rebecca McCleary stated that Kelsey Creek is a headwater stream of the Cuyahoga River and is located within the middle Cuyahoga watershed and the Lake Erie watershed. Throughout the past several decades, this stream, like many others, has experienced considerable damage from erosion and sedimentation due to increased volumes and velocities of storm water runoff from an increasing urbanized watershed. Impervious surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, parking lots and rooftops contribute to storm water runoff and flooding issues. The storm water flow from several communities within the Kelsey Creek sub-watershed, including Cuyahoga Falls, Munroe Falls and Tallmadge, has dramatically impacted the conditions of the Kelsey Creek stream, creating public safety hazards, poor surface water quality and threats to municipal infrastructure. In 2013, the City successfully implemented full restoration of an approximately 11-hundred-foot stretch of the Kelsey Creek channel and 1,800 feet of stream bank in Kennedy Park that had been most degraded by storm water flows. This first restoration phase has resulted in substantial improvements in the Kelsey Creek sub-watershed by reducing flooding, improving public safety by the creation of flood plain benches, as opposed to shear drops of six feet or more, and has improved water quality and habitat, which is most noticeable by the increase in aquatic and pond-eater species in that area. To protect and strengthen what has been accomplished thus far in terms of the effective function of the stream in Kennedy Park where many activities take place each year, Phase II will restore and stabilize an additional 800 feet or more of the channel, as well as 1,200 feet of stream bank immediately upstream of Phase I. Public safety issues with eroding banks having shear drops of five to six feet adjacent to ball fields as well as water quality will be improved. By reconnecting the stream to an excavated flood plain and sculpting the edges to eliminate steep, eroded banks, Phase II restoration will blend seamlessly with Phase I. The banks and flood plain can strengthen storm water management capacity by effectively allowing

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for infiltration of storm water. Phase II will also support a diversity of native tree and plants species that will serve as a living showcase of a healthy riparian and aquatic habitat. This biodiversity will compliment and enrich visitor experience, while ensuring that Kelsey Creek becomes an accessible, safe and inviting feature of the park and the Cuyahoga Falls Arboretum. In summary, Phase II restoration of Kelsey Creek and Kennedy Park provides an extraordinary opportunity, in a highly-urbanized area, to demonstrate significant infrastructure, ecological and esthetic benefits for the community and for the entire watershed. Fortunately, the Ohio EPA has committed to funding close to 60 percent of the total estimated cost of the Phase II design build project. In addition, exciting new partnerships with local schools are being forged and young students can apply what they're learning in their academic concepts through actual land laboratory study.

Mr. Iula stated that receiving a grant for 60 percent of the job will be very helpful. Hopefully, this project might even help a little bit of the flooding in Water Works. Also, the Cuyahoga Falls High School Biology club and biology classes and students at the Schnee Learning Center are helping with this project and learning while doing that. Mr. Pallotta asked if this will take care of the homes on Issaquah Street with erosion and the water rising. Ms. McCleary stated that they hope it will have a positive impact upstream, but Phase II will end at the private-public property, because this grant specifically is targeting public lands only. It will help, because it will be just slightly downstream from those areas and will open that flood plain so that the storm water has a place to go. Mrs. Pyke asked Ms. McCleary if she wrote this grant and are there any other grants out there that they might be waiting on. Ms. McCleary stated that, as far as for this project, they are not waiting for grant funding. The Section 319 grant application is a very tedious and lengthy process. It was submitted last August, and they found out, a few months later, they were going to receive the funding that was requested. She was able to base it, in part, on Phase I, which was partly funded by a Swift Surface Water Improvement Grant, which essentially comes from the same source, but is less money. Mrs. Pyke stated that there are a lot of projects out there that are worthy of grant money, but she wanted to thank Ms. McCleary and give her the credit for getting the City this money.

Mr. James stated that he wanted to thank Ms. McCleary. Before Phase I went into effect, he heard complaints all the time from folks in his ward about flooding and erosion. Whatever has been done in Phase I has quieted down the complaints 99 percent, so Phase II is going to do nothing more than improve it more. He is very confident that this is going to continue in the right direction. What is going to be nice is getting the banks to be a little bit friendlier, also, instead of those drops. It is also great to have students involved. Ms. McCleary stated that Section 319 grants haven't always incorporated or heavily prioritized public involvement in education, but they've come around. A big part of their grant proposal is that there will be the public involvement and public meetings. There will be fact sheets. The biology students at the high school approached them last summer and they are interested in assisting with the wetland planning. They participated in the interviewing process. They had six firms submit statements of qualifications and then short-listed that to three firms. From those firms, they narrowed it down to the firm that was selected to do the project again with them. The students are very actively involved. She would also thank the

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Mayor, too, for all his involvement in getting the young kids involved with decisions that are being made for the community.

Mayor Walters stated that he would like to take a moment to thank Mr. Iona and Ms. Nichols-Rhodes for their help in the bid review process for Front Street. The process is complete. The prices are sealed and will be opened tomorrow, so, by the end of tomorrow, they should have the winner of the bid.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-19 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.