

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Improvements Committee Meeting
April 19, 2010

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Mark Ihasz
Terry Mader

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the April 5, 2010 Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. A-48
Temp. Ord. A-49
Temp. Ord. A-50
Temp. Ord. A-51
Temp. Ord. A-52

Discussion

Mr. Walters stated Temp. Ord. A-49 dealing with the State Road and Portage Trail intersection would not be discussed this evening.

Temp. Ord. A-48

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the decontamination of buildings located at 3217 8th Street, and certifying the cost thereof to the County Fiscal Officer for collection in the manner provided by law, and declaring an emergency.

Peter Bell stated this was half of a duplex that was raided last November for meth cooking. The City has been trying to work with the owner but they have not made any progress. They want to move forward with this and get the property cleaned up. Mr. Walters asked if this was an actual figure or a ballpark. Mr. Bell stated it was a ballpark. They are trying to get estimates. Preliminary testing showed it involved just the back half of the duplex. The front was clean. Mrs. Pyke asked whether the owner lived in the City. Mr. Bell believed the owner lived in Mogadore and was not sure if he owned other properties in the City.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-48.

Temp. Ord. A-50

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract and/or contracts for improvements to the Gorge Park trunk sewer, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated the existing sanitary sewer in Gorge Park has several aerial crossings. This one is by the high level bridge and has been damaged several times over the years. It is a 20" sewer installed in the 1960s and is accompanied by a 14" sewer below the river built in the 1940s. They are working with the EPA and Park Service. Bids were opened on March 31. They would like to award it next week and get the process moving. The new sewer will be buried and will no longer be aerial. The low bid came in at their estimate. The project will use special equipment, and there are a couple of options to access the area with this equipment. One is off Peck Road in Akron. The other option would need the approval of the Summit County Engineer to use the bridge and have a crane wenching down materials and equipment.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-50.

Temp. Ord. A-51

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for replacement of the waterline in Taft Avenue, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated the existing 6” water line was built in 1956. It will be replaced with an 8” ductile iron water main. Bids were opened last week and will be awarded next week. Mr. Christopher added that there have been five breaks since 2004. They had to make a decision whether to keep repairing a bad water main or replace it. This is at the top of the list of streets to do. Mr. Walters stated the scars in the road are very noticeable. There have been a lot of breaks and the City needs to get a new line in there.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-51.

Temp. Ord. A-52

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the replacement or adjustment of concrete sidewalks, drive approaches and curbs at various locations in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated this is the annual ordinance that allows the City to enter into a contract for the year 2010. Bids were opened on March 30 and they anticipate awarding the contract after the vote next Monday. Mr. Walters asked for an idea of what the City is spending now. Mr. Demasi indicated it would be half. Mr. Walters stated it would not be the full cost to the City in the end. He added that sometimes property owners do not understand having to pay for a sidewalk that is damaged by a tree on City property. He asked if the City works with the property owners. Mr. Demasi stated they work with them every year. They try to help them understand if the property owner commits to replacing the sidewalk the first time, the City would commit to replacing it the second time. They do not want to get into the habit of cutting down healthy trees. Mrs. Klinger asked whether the specifications were refined regarding the type of dirt used to backfill around the sidewalk. Mr. Demasi stated they have received very few complaints. Of the 40 to 50 sidewalks done last year, they received three complaints, and those were from people who are very particular about their lawns. Some residents even specify the type of seed so that it will match their lawn. The contractor works with them on that. Mrs. Klinger stated there was some topsoil that was obviously low quality used at a particular residence. The contractor redid the work a couple of times but it was still not right so the homeowners did it themselves. She asked if there was any retainer held back to make sure work was done properly. Mr. Demasi stated they hold a retainer for one year. If the work is not satisfactory, the City will hold the whole retainer or a portion to cover charges to fix it.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-52.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.