

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
April 6, 2009

Members: Vince Rubino, Chair
Kathy Hummel
Ken Barnhart

Mr. Rubino called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Barnhart was absent.

The minutes from the March 16, 2009 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-27

Temp. Ord. B-28

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-27

An ordinance amending the traffic control file by providing for installation of various traffic control devices, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated this request came before the Traffic Committee to ban parking on Tiff Street. The residents are in favor and the Traffic Committee recommends passage. Mr. Walters added that everyone was in favor except for one who actually didn't care. There is a sharp curve in the already narrow street at Third and Garfield. Drivers cannot see. With the road at 18 feet wide, Mr. Rubino asked what the standard is. Mr. Demasi indicated a road would need to be at least 26 feet wide to not be considered narrow.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. B-27.

Temp. Ord. B-28

An ordinance amending the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Chapter 1310, Flood Plain Administration, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi indicated that Peter Bell and Russ Kring were present to discuss the rewriting of the Flood Plain ordinance, which is being required by FEMA. Mr. Bell stated this is the end result of an eight to nine year process with FEMA. The last two steps are contained in the ordinance. It adopts new maps effective July 20 and it accepts the changes that FEMA came up with. Basically, if the City allows development in a flood plain, FEMA must be notified. Mr. Rubino asked if 1981 was the last time a map was published for our area. Mr. Bell stated it was and added that the new map includes Cuyahoga Falls and the rest of the Summit County region. Citizens can see the map by going to FEMA's website. Mr. Rubino asked if there are significant differences since 1981. Mr. Bell indicated that Yellow Creek and Furnace are new. but there is nothing new that affects the structures the City currently has.

Mrs. Hummel stated that line 60 on Exhibit A states "Flood Plain Administrator" and felt it should probably be "Flood Plain Administration". Mr. Rubino confirmed that the attachment states that the City must appoint a Flood Plain Administrator and asked who that would be. Mr. Arrington stated it would be Mr. Demasi or his designee. Mrs. Colavecchio asked whether the Flood Plain Administrator was to make a report to FEMA. Mr. Bell indicated he would. Mrs. Colavecchio pointed out that the penalty section in

1310.99 indicates that a failure to report would be a second degree misdemeanor. She asked, under the laws of the City, would that mean that our City Engineer could be held accountable under this ordinance or is it the intention to hold him accountable under FEMA. Mr. Arrington stated it is technically for the builders and developers under the Code but not held against the Administrator. However, hearing Mrs. Colavecchio's question, he understood her point. He believes what they are saying is that they will defer to the City's definition of second degree misdemeanor but he will present it to FEMA to find out what the penalty is. He also would like to find out who would enforce that.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. B-28.

Mr. Walters stated there has been some land-clearing activity at the hospital site. He asked whether that is occurring without the City's involvement. Mrs. Truby stated that is just for the interchange and has nothing to do with the hospital. The funding is in place to begin construction on the interchange. The contract was awarded by ODOT last December.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.