

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community Development Committee Meeting

April 7, 2014

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Weinhardt, Chair, at 7:33 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Without objection, the minutes of the March 3, 2014 Committee meetings were approved.

Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. A-32

An ordinance approving the 2014-2018 CDBG Consolidated Plan Document, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Community Development Administrator Ron Messner. Every 5 years the City is required to produce a 5-year strategic plan. The 80-page strategic plan is available on the City's website. There are four broad goals stated in the plan, covering any type of issue that can be addressed by the Community Development program. The grant amount awarded for the 2014-15 CDBG fiscal year is \$604,660, down from \$626,660 in the previous fiscal year. The annual grant amounts were over \$1 million ten years ago. For entitlement cities, this amount is determined by a HUD formula. The City also receives repayments on the grants and loans made by the City under the housing program. In FY 2014-15 the City is estimated to receive \$33,373 from such repayments, \$21,000 from the housing revolving loan fund, \$146,706 and \$61,223 from the economic development loan fund and ED revolving loan fund, and other program income for a total available of \$927,980. There are three major areas of planned expenditures: \$297,500 in housing loans and grants, including restoration of the housing matching grant and paint reimbursement programs. New initiatives will be housing energy efficiency and elderly snow removal programs. The

independent living grant and exterior repair loan programs will be discontinued. Home improvement loans, emergency grants, and down payment assistance grants will remain. The remainder of the budget is \$470,480 in economic development loans and \$160,000 in planning and administration. The action items proposed for 2014-15 are: Front Street traffic engineering study, Wyoga Lake multi-purpose trail, historic district study, vacant facilities re-use, Riverwalk development, and Cochran Road extension. Mr. Messner concluded his report.

The Chair asked how the department will make the public aware of the CDBG programs. Mr. Messner stated that there is a brochure and the information is on the City's website. The City is considering printing the new brochure in the Falls News Press. The City is also participating in a social media platform call "Mind-Mixer" where this information can be disseminated. The Chair asked whether the department works with local banks to partner with them to make low interest home improvement financing available to Falls residents. Mr. Messner stated that he will follow up on this initiative.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked if the City has hired a fair housing advocate. Mr. Messner stated that two persons have been interviewed. Mrs. Pyke asked if there are any CDBG programs specifically designed to help refugees. The Community Development Director stated that she is working with the State to determine if such uses can be authorized. Mrs. Pyke asked whether elderly snow removal services will be income qualified, and whether a senior with an able-bodied resident in the house will be eligible. Mr. Messner stated that eligibility standards are still being developed. Mrs. Pyke asked whether home improvement loans are available to a resident who owes more on the home than the home is worth. Mr. Messner stated that this does not disqualify an applicant. Mrs. Pyke asked if

the City is still operating the down-payment assistance program. Mr. Messner stated that the City does operate that program.

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

Motion by Mr. Pallotta to hold Temp. Ord. A-32 in committee. Seconded by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. A-33

An ordinance approving the Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2014, and declaring an emergency.

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

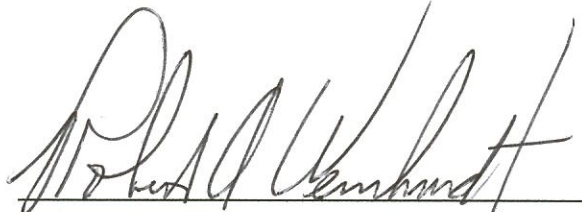
Motion by the Chair to hold Temp. Ord. A-33 in committee. Seconded by Mr. Colavecchio. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items

None.

Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.



Robert Weinhardt, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council