

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting

April 7, 2014

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pallotta, Chair, at 7:14 p.m. A quorum was present.
Approval of the Minutes	Without objection, the minutes of the March 17, 2014 Public Affairs Committee meeting were approved.
Agenda Items	
Temp. Ord. A-30	<p>An ordinance amending Section 947.05 of Part Nine, Title Seven, Chapter 947 of the Codified Ordinances, relating to medical transport service, and declaring an emergency.</p> <p>Proponent testimony was offered by Fire Chief Paul Moledor. The EMS Commission was set up in the early 1990's to address costs being charged by private ambulance services. The Commission became obsolete when the City began providing its own ambulance services. As a result, the City has been unable to address unpaid EMS service bills. This ordinance will allow the Board of Review to meet in order to address these unpaid bills.</p> <p>The Chair asked how the money received by the City for EMS transport services is accounted for. The Finance Director stated that 90% of the receipts are deposited to the Capital Projects Fund and 10% is deposited to the General Fund. The Chair asked how the uncollected monies are accounted for. The Finance Director stated that the debts are on the books of the third party billing agent, Life Force, but they have been written off for the purposes of the City's financial reporting. The Chair asked how the Board of Review will determine which bills will be collected. Chief Moledor stated that the City's billing agent has recommended that only bills less than 2</p>

years old be collected. The Chair asked why this matter has not previously been addressed. Chief Moledor stated that he would need to speak with the former Finance Director. The Chair asked whether Life Force has provided a report of the bills that are less than two years old and are collectable. The Finance Director stated that his aging report does not differentiate bills that are older than 120 days. The total arrearage older than 120 days is \$3,387,000, going back to 1999. The Chair asked how much would be collectable if the City limited its collections to bills less than 2 years old. The Finance Director stated that amount older than 2 years would be approximately \$2.6 million.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who stated that bills need to be pursued fairly and people treated equally. EMS transport bills historically were not pursued beyond a letter threatening referral to collections. The Board of Review did meet at least once and found the process of sorting through the bills to determine collectability to be enormously difficult.

The Chair recognized Mr. Colavecchio, who asked what the statute of limitations is for these bills. The Law Director stated that the statute is 6 years, but it would be unable to achieve anything significant beyond 2 years. Mr. Colavecchio asked how Life Force gets paid. The Finance Director stated that Life Force gets a percentage of what they collect. Mr. Colavecchio stated that Life Force should be required to expend effort collecting bills older than 2 years.

The Chair recognized Mr. Weinhardt, who stated that the collections agency should be required to go back further than 2 years.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who stated that the City must be careful and look at these bills individually.

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

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. A-30 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. A-31

An ordinance amending Chapter 767, Part Seven of the Codified Ordinances, relating to ambulances and emergency medical services, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Fire Chief Paul Moledor. The ordinance substitutes certain obsolete definitions and substitutes references to the EMS Commission with references to the Fire Chief.

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


Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. A-31 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items

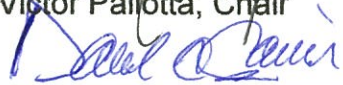
None.

Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Pallotta adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.



Victor Pallotta, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council