

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Community Development Committee Meeting
May 4, 2009

Members: Mark Ihasz, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Ihasz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the April 20, 2009 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Temp. Ord. B-37

An ordinance approving the 2009-2013 CDBG Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Document and Program, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated they updated the charts with the new 2009 figures and increased housing activities and the state economic development activities. She reviewed the changes from the last plan that were discussed the previous week. Mr. Ihasz stated that under the matching grant program, which was originally the Heslop program, there were 13 homes done during the past five years. He asked if Mrs. Truby anticipated an increase since the program was now City-wide. Mrs. Truby felt there would probably be more requests and, if the program takes off, they can always allocate additional monies if needed. Mr. Ihasz stated this is an excellent program and he hoped that homeowners will take advantage of it. Mrs. Pyke felt that quite a few people will qualify. She asked if residents would be paid if they did the work themselves. Mrs. Truby stated the residents would be reimbursed for material but not for the work. She added that they want to help any resident who needs it, anywhere from the \$2,500 minimum up to the \$15,000 maximum. Mrs. Pyke stated she is thrilled that the matching grant amount was lowered and that it is now City-wide.

Mrs. Hummel had questions on the One Year Action Plan. She stated that \$250,000 was dedicated for infrastructure improvements and that the project listed for this year was Prospect Street. She asked if the entire amount would be spent there or would some be available for Stone Street. Mr. Demasi stated it would cover the engineering to be done for both Prospect and Stone and would also cover some construction for Prospect. Mrs. Hummel commented on the money being planned for engineering for the street projects listed in the Five Year Plan. She was concerned that a lot of money would be spent on engineering without much actual work being done. Mr. Demasi stated that due to time restrictions, the City needs to have projects ready to go as soon as funding comes in. The City would not lose anything to have the engineering completed now. Everything depends on how much money the City receives. They would rather be more prepared than less. Mrs. Hummel asked how much it would cost to do Stone Street for all improvements. Mr. Demasi estimated Stone Street to be approximately 500 – 600 feet long which would make it around \$3 million. Mrs. Carr stated she would double check the linear feet to see if they could get a better estimate. Mrs. Hummel asked about the plan to have the rental housing inspection program in place for the next fiscal year, which is July 2010. She also mentioned that the One Year Plan indicated that the program would be created with City Funds under CDBG. Mrs. Truby stated they did some preliminary work based on certain criteria of certain cities. That needs to be updated. She believes they can have a program of that nature by July 2010. Mrs. Hummel asked if the City had a citizen petition plan as mentioned on page 17 of the Five Year Plan. Mrs. Truby stated they did not and mentioned this was a draft. They will incorporate comments that have been made and comments that are received on-line. Mrs. Hummel stated she would like to see a copy of that part of the plan. She stated there is also reference to written comments and asked whether written comments made now would be included. Mrs. Truby stated

they would as long as the City received them before they submit the plan, which is this week. Verbal comments would also be included.

Mrs. Pyke stated that the streets in her Ward that were reconstructed did not include water and sewer and cost roughly \$522,000 for High Street, \$557,000 for Union, \$634,000 for Underwood, and \$539,000 for Albermarle. Also, since the City did Main Street to the north, she asked whether there were any plans to do Main Street to the south. Mrs. Truby stated they have always considered it. The Mayor would be meeting with Schwebel's but it is not high on Schwebel's list of priorities. It could become part of an infrastructure project. Mrs. Klinger asked if she could see a map of the 13 block group so she could see the streets that border those areas. Mrs. Carr stated she would get her a copy.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-37.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.