

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Affairs Committee

June 1, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pallotta, Chair, at 6:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Without objection, the minutes of the May 4, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. B-39

An ordinance amending Section 516.02 of Chapter 516, Part Five of the Codified Ordinances, relating to Minors' Curfew, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by the sponsor, Mr. Colavecchio, who stated that the Youth Advisory Council has reviewed issues that are relevant to the City and to them. One of those issues is that they felt the weekend 8:00 p.m. curfew in the downtown area was too restrictive. The curfew had previously been midnight, until problems developed and it was changed. The Youth Advisory Council voted 6-0 to change the curfew to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Colavecchio stated he sees no problem and that this change is a good idea.

The Chair recognized Chief of Police Jack Davis, who stated that the original curfew was changed in the downtown area only to address a problem that occurred there. At the time it was changed, different curfew times were considered, so it is unknown whether the difference between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. will make a difference. The 8:00 p.m. curfew ordinance has worked well and has solved the problem. It has worked so well that the Department no longer even tracks the problems there.

The Chair recognized the Mayor, who stated that at the time the curfew change was under discussion, he consulted with then Captain Davis and the local merchants, and observed what was happening in the area. The volume of people was difficult to manage during Rockin' on the River events. This is why the 8:00 p.m. curfew was enacted. This topic was covered by the Youth Advisory Council and they understood the need, but felt the 8:00 p.m. curfew was too restrictive. Many of the members of the Youth Advisory Council have jobs and work until early evening, giving them limited time after work to attend downtown events. They felt the 9:00 p.m. curfew was a good compromise.

The Chair recognized Mr. Weinhardt, who asked the sponsor if the merchants in the special curfew area will be notified of the change in the curfew. Mr. Colavecchio stated that he spoke with the Chief about this. It is a "no-brainer" and he did not feel it necessary to ask the merchants about a change from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In the past, the midnight curfew presented a problem which has been alleviated. This is a change of only one hour, and if it presents a problem, it can be changed. Mr. Colavecchio stated he does not want to "waste my time going to all of the merchants and talking to them about a one hour change." He spoke with the Chief and other members of Council and no one found a problem with this change.

Mr. Weinhardt asked if there are other special curfew areas in the City. The Mayor stated that the parks close at sunset. This is the only special curfew area.

The Chair recognized Mr. DeRemer, who stated that he sees no problem with the curfew change from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked the Chief to define the special curfew area.

The Chief stated it is the riverfront mall area, boardwalk, parking decks, and the area of the City building and Natatorium. The high school is not in the special curfew area. Mrs. Pyke stated one hour is not much of a difference, and that she supports this ordinance.

The Chair recognized a member of the public, Gabriel Glor, 1437 Myrtle Ave., who stated he would like the curfew to be 9:00 p.m. so that he can stop by the food vendors after work.

The Chair asked if the curfew affects the Portage Crossing area. Chief Davis stated that the general midnight curfew covers Portage Crossing, but it is not in the special curfew.


The Chair recognized a member of the public, Sarah Grogss, 2721 Oak Park Blvd., who stated that the kids she has spoken with agree that those who have jobs cannot attend downtown events due to the curfew. This change will not affect the situation because it is still daylight before 9:00 p.m.

There was no opponent testimony.


Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp Ord. B-39 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.



Victor Pallotta, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council