

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
July 18, 2011**

Members: Mark Ihasz, Chair
Kathy Hummel
Jeff Iula

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

The minutes from the July 5, 2011 Committee meeting were approved as submitted

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-76

Temp. Ord. B-77

Discussion

Temp. Ord. B-76

An ordinance amending Sections 161.05, 161.07, 161.09, 161.11 and 161.13 of Title Seven, Part One of the Codified Ordinances, relating to municipal income tax, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brodzinski stated this is a clean-up of the code ordinance to reflect state law. One of the sections still listed that city taxes were due on April 30 where state and federal stated it was April 15. Several years ago, the law was changed so that all taxes were due on April 15. This change also affects when quarterly payments are due. State law says the months when payments are due must be April, July, October, and January. The City has been in compliance since that change was made so it just needs to be cleaned up. Mrs. Colavecchio commented that line 157 states records retention is being increased from five years to six years. She asked how the six years was arrived at and how records retention would be enforced. Mr. Brodzinski stated by state law, the City is allowed to go back six years. Mrs. Colavecchio stated there is a lot of professional speculation on how long people should keep records like these. She did not think the City could enforce it but she understood why the language was there. Mrs. Hummel commented on how the City sends out quarterly invoices or requests for payments. She stated the state and federal governments send four coupons to use for the year and the City sends out a statement for each due date, which incurs additional costs in time and postage. Mailing coupons would only be one mailing as opposed to four. Mr. Brodzinski stated they had looked at that in the past and can certainly look at it again. He thought that years ago it became a cost issue but he'll check. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if payments could be made on-line instead of by mail. Mr. Brodzinski stated they are in the process of switching over systems and he wants to make sure there are no problems, but when there is a tax liability, he is hesitant to accept only an on-line filing where no W-2s are provided. Given the City's size, it does not have the ability to receive the tapes from the government that contain W-2 information on taxpayers.

Mrs. Hummel moved to bring out B-76 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-77

An ordinance amending Sections 771.01, 771.02, 771.03, 771.04, and 771.05 of Part Seven of the Codified Ordinances, relating to alarm systems and false alarms, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Janis stated that the ordinance sets up a licensure system for alarm systems, as well as registration fees and fines for false alarms. The ordinance presumes the alarms have a direct connection to the police department. They are changing things to a simple registration system and also changing the fine from an administrative fee to a civil penalty. It will now be \$50 per false alarm. Registration is permanent so there are no renewal fees. It will only apply to commercial businesses. Mr. Ihasz asked how many false alarms there were last year. Chief Pozza did not have that information with him but would get it. They clear all alarms with a code for either "false alarm" or "valid alarm." It will apply to any organization that has an alarm, including the hospital. Mr. Ihasz asked if the hospital was ever fined. Chief Pozza did not believe so. Mr. Ihasz asked if that meant discretion would be used. Mr. Janis stated the ordinance allows the alarm administrator to use discretion in his evaluation of the reason the alarm went off. Mrs. Pyke asked about a child pulling an alarm at a school. Chief Pozza stated it would be termed a valid alarm because the alarm did what it was supposed to do (i.e., someone pulled it and it went off). He will think about charging fines to those who intentionally do that when there is no emergency.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out B-77 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Hummel. Motion passed (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.