

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Special Committee on Transparency and Best Practices

July 18, 2016

Members: Adam Miller, Chair
Russ Iona
Mary Nichols-Rhodes

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the May 23, 2016, June 13, 2016, June 27, 2016 and July 5, 2016 meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Res. A-60

Discussion:

Temp. Res. A-60

A resolution supporting the recommendations of Council's Special Committee on Transparency and Best Practices, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to start out by letting everyone know that this committee was created to address issues with Council's microphones and sound system. They have a technician from Audio-Technica who will be working on the microphones at no cost. This committee was also created to discuss ways to make Council meetings more accessible to the public. Through the Committee's research, conversations and a walk-through done by Audio-Technica, several meetings with neighboring communities and a survey done by the public, it was decided that moving forward with placing the audio of City Council and Committee meetings on the City website and on the City radio station was a great way to promote civic engagement and public awareness of what is going on.

Mr. Miller stated that feedback from the community was very positive. Many of the negative comments or reservations regarding the Committee's recommendations were obviously cost. Keeping costs in mind, the Committee decided against retrofitting Council chambers with additional audio or video equipment and that placing audio of City Council meetings on the website and radio station was a good first step. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to thank the Committee and the Council Clerk for their hard work during this process. He stated that he thinks that this resolution will help build trust with the community and promote transparency and accountability.

Mrs. Pyke stated that she would like to thank the members of the Committee and those Council members who stayed and put their time and input into moving this forward. She stated that she thinks that this will be a good thing. Mr. Pallotta asked Mr. Miller if he would like to speak at all about the FCC regulations and how that going to affect Council down the road. Mr. Miller stated that he was going to discuss that with Mr. Hoffman at a later time, but, just to make everyone

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aware, there are FCC rules that change often. At some point, the current microphones may actually become obsolete. So, there will possibly be additional cost to replacing them in the future.

Mr. Iona moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-60 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.