

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
July 23, 2012

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Carrie Snyder
Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the July 9, 2012 committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-69
Temp. Ord. A-79
Temp. Ord. A-80

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-69

An ordinance amending Sections 111.03 and 111.05 of Title One, Part One of the Codified Ordinances, relating to the Rules of City Council, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Ihasz stated this is an ordinance amending the Rules of City Council. Section 111.03 would reflect that all meetings will be considered as Council meetings. The first and third Mondays will be used to discuss legislation and the second and fourth Mondays will be used to vote. This way, a Council meeting can be held on a committee night by a motion and second, as long as a majority of Council is in favor. A meeting can also still be called by giving 24 hours' notice. Once this is in effect, Council could also reschedule its Council meetings like what was done in July, eliminating the need for legislation. In addition, everyone will be able to participate in execution sessions.

Mr. Walters stated that nothing changes technically and that it would basically be the same order of business. He stated that, basically, if legislation were discussed in Committee and Council wanted to vote on it, it could be done without calling a special meeting. Just a motion, a second, and a majority vote would take care of it. Mr. Janis stated that every time a quorum of Council is present and there is a discussion of City business, you have a Council meeting. This legislation changes the Rules to reflect the way Council has been doing business during committee meetings, in which all Council members participate.

Mr. Rubino expressed concern about only needing a majority vote to call a meeting in order to pass legislation on the same night it was discussed. He felt that the motion should be passed with a two-thirds majority. He felt something that has not been previously announced should be held at a higher level. He sees the value of what is being proposed but was concerned about Council members who may not be aware something will be brought out until the motion is made. He asked how someone could stop an item from being fast-tracked when people aren't ready. Mr. Ihasz agreed and stated there is still a 24-hour notice. It should be rare to call a meeting without the 24-hour notice. Mr. Rubino suggested that when a meeting is called without a 24-hour notice, that a two-thirds majority be required to pass it. He will make an amendment on the floor. Mrs. Klinger felt Mr. Rubino made an excellent point and felt the Law Department could draft a substitute. The suggestion is an excellent safeguard. If an amendment is prepared and fails, Council could fall back to the original ordinance. Mrs. Colavecchio also agreed with a two-thirds vote. Mr. Walters asked the Law Director for a substitute with the proper language requiring a two-thirds vote. He would then amend A-69 next week by substitution.

Mrs. Klinger moved to bring out A-78 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Snyder. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-79

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement with the Summit County Educational Service Center for the use of a City-owned parking lot at Harrington Field, 2610 Oakwood Drive, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Carr stated they are trying to update an agreement dated back to 1993. This is for the former Bode school which is occupied by the Board of Education. The City owns the parking lot and the educational center uses that parking lot. There is an agreement between the City and the Board that needs to be updated because the parking lot needs maintenance. It would be modeled after other school districts. The City would provide the labor and the Board would pay for the materials. It was also agreed to make the lot slightly smaller which means the City will be regaining some of the property. They want to get the work done this year.

Mr. Walters asked if the labor would be done in-house or through a contractor. Mrs. Carr responded it would be done in-house. The Board will be providing \$46,000 towards making the repairs. The lot is not in good shape. This should keep it in good shape for 10 to 15 years. It is a good relationship and the City hopes to continue it. Mrs. Snyder asked how much of a reduction would be made to the parking. Mrs. Carr stated they will be taking two rows of parking away, which will then become a grassy area again.

Mrs. Klinger moved to bring out A-79 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Snyder. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Res. A-80

A resolution expressing support for and urging passage of Issue 5, the Woodridge Local School District tax levy, at the special election to be held on August 7, 2012, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Mader stated his only comment is that our school districts are a partnership with our community. A strong school system benefits the whole community. Woodridge has an excellent record and is well known for that. He encouraged Council to support them in their endeavor to pass this levy. Mrs. Colavecchio thanked Mr. Mader for bringing this legislation forward. She was also in support of the levy. There is a lot of opposition this year. It is important to support this. The levy has to be passed. She asked if it would be on the ballot just in our City or would it also be at the other geographical locations for students within the District. Deanna Levenger, School District Treasurer, replied it would be at all seven geographical locations. There are similar or like resolutions pending with the other communities. Mr. Walters wondered if there would be confusion due to the ward boundary and precincts being changed by the Board of Election. Ms. Levenger stated they have a new voting location starting with this election which could be confusion. Mr. Walters stated he has not looked at boundaries in relation to school district boundaries and was concerned that some people could show up to vote but it may have changed.

Ms. Levenger stated this is their third attempt at getting a levy passed. The votes on the previous two attempts were close. They have made a ten percent reduction in the budget over the months, but the District is still in a precarious position. They receive only \$1.1 million from the State and are heavily dependent on local money. The District has not requested new money since 2004 and they are hoping this levy will pass in August. She appreciated Council's support.

Scott Karlo, 112 Timothy, is the Committee's Co-Chair. He was angry when the last levy didn't pass. There is a lot of apathy in the School District. 902 voters who have kids or other ties did not vote. He decided to get involved and get people to recognize that voting is critical. There are people who want to make this an

emotional issue. Strong schools encourage people to move into the community. The School District turned away half of the students applying for open enrollment. People state they would like to see teachers take less money. We know property owners do not want to pay more taxes and the District does not want to ask them to pay more taxes however, it is the only option per state law. He hoped Council would consider supporting them. Ms. Levenger added that there has been no increase in state funding since 1999 and enrollment has grown by over 300 students since then.

Mrs. Snyder moved to bring out A-80 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Klinger. Motion passed (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.