## CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Affairs Committee

July 6, 2015

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Mr.

Pallotta, Chair, at 6:55 p.m. A quorum was

present.

Approval of the Minutes Without objection, the minutes of the June 15,

2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. B-49

An ordinance providing an amendment to the Charter of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, originally adopted by the electorate on November 3, 1959, and amended from time to time, to be submitted at the next general election on November 3, 2015, which amendment will revise Article III, Section 9, and declaring an emergency.

The Chair recognized Deputy Law Director Janet Ciotolla, who stated that the proposed amendment to the city charter is: "Beginning in 2016, one member shall be appointed by the Cuyahoga Falls City School District Board of Education and one member shall be appointed by the Woodridge Local School District Board of Education, respectively, to the Park & Recreation Board." The Charter was adopted in 1959 and amended in 1965. Northampton merged with the City of Cuyahoga Falls in 1986, and the Woodridge School District became part of that merger. At the Charter Review meetings, Woodridge School District Superintendent Walter Davis suggested this amendment so that each School District would have an appointee to provide representation to the Park & Recreation Board.

The Chair stated that the proposed amendment seems to make sense since the Parks & Recreation Board maintains the grounds that the schools are on.

The Chair asked whether there are two Cuyahoga Falls School District appointees on the Board now, and whether one of them would have to step down in order to make room for the Woodridge School Board appointee. Ms. Ciotolla stated that the language is rather broad, stating only that two members shall be appointed "by the board of education." In practice it has been the Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education that makes these selections. If this amendment passes, then each school board would have one. Currently there is only one Cuyahoga Falls School District appointee on the Board now. One has recently resigned.

The Chair recognized Mr. Weinhardt, who asked why it is necessary to reduce one appointee from Cuyahoga Falls if there are a total of 5 positions on the Board. Ms. Ciotolla stated that this is what the Charter Commission decided. The Charter states that the Board shall consist of five members, and this is drawn from the state law that states two members shall be appointed by the Board of Education and three members shall be appointed by the mayor or city manager. Mr. Weinhardt asked whether it would present a problem to enlarge the Board to six members. Ms. Ciotolla stated she has not studied this issue. The fivemember Board is traditional. The Cuvahoga Falls Superintendent was contacted and stated that he had no problems with this change.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked whether the Charter Review Commission considered changing the number of Board Members to six so that two could continue to be appointed by the Cuyahoga Falls School Board and one from the Woodridge School Board. Ms. Ciotolla stated that this was discussed, but the Commission wanted to keep the total number of members as an odd number to avoid tie votes.

The Chair recognized Mr. Colavecchio, who stated that he attended a number of the

meetings of the Charter Review Commission and did not see other Council members there. Concerns with the Charter amendment proposals should have been brought up then. He stated "I strongly disagree with those tactics."

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who stated that she will voice her opinion at these meetings as long as she is a member of the Council.

The Chair recognized Mr. Mader, who stated that it is his opinion that the Cuyahoga Falls School District and the Woodridge School District should have an equal voice on the Park & Recreation Board. This change makes it fair and balanced. Mr. Mader stated that he did attend at least one meeting of the Charter Review Committee.

The Chair recognized a member of the public, Kathy Moffett, 2047 – 8<sup>th</sup> Street, who stated that she is a member of the Cuyahoga Falls School Board. The Board discussed having a member of Woodridge Scholl Board on the Park & Recreation Board. There will be an open position at the end of the year so no one is being removed.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp Ord. B-49 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

An ordinance providing an amendment to the Charter of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, originally adopted by the electorate on November 3, 1959, and amended from time to time, to be submitted at the next general election on November 3, 2015, which amendment will revise Article IV, Section 3, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Ciotolla stated that the proposed amendment to the city charter is: "All council

Temp. Ord. B-50

members must have their primary residence in the city three years immediately preceding the filing of their Declaration of Candidacy." Councilman Jerry James presented this amendment and related that a candidate had been permitted to run for Council having been a resident many years earlier. The Commission felt the amendment would ensure that candidates have a current familiarity with Cuyahoga Falls.

The Chair asked if ward candidates will still need six months residence in the ward. Ms. Ciotolla stated this is correct. That will not change.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp Ord. B-50 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

An ordinance providing an amendment to the Charter of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, originally adopted by the electorate on November 3, 1959, and amended from time to time, to be submitted at the next general election on November 3, 2015, which amendment will revise Article V, Section 2, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Ciotolla stated that the Charter Review Commission reviewed the Charter of Tallmadge when studying Article V, governing elections. Talmadge recently amended its charter to require all candidates to file on the same date whether the candidate is partisan or non-partisan, so that the public has equal time to learn about all the candidates.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp Ord. B-51 with a favorable recommendation.

Temp. Ord. B-51

Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. B-52

An ordinance providing an amendment to the Charter of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, originally adopted by the electorate on November 3, 1959, and amended from time to time, to be submitted at the next general election on November 3, 2015, which amendment will revise Article VII, Section 2, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Ciotolla stated that the Charter Review Commission studied Article VII and noted that the City must follow state law as it pertains to civil service matters. This amendment would allow the civil service commission to make rules and regulations that differ from state law so long as the rules and regulations are reviewed and approved by City Council. Cuyahoga Falls is a home rule municipality and should be allowed to do this. This will allow the City to remove itself from the procedural restrictions in the Ohio Revised Code. The majority of other cities have adopted similar language in their charters.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked if the Council has authority now to enact civil service rules that differ from state law, instead of relying on the Civil Service Commission to enact such rules. Ms. Ciotolla stated that she thinks there would be a problem, but she has no legal research in front of her to confirm it.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to hold Temp Ord. B-52 in committee. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Adjournment

Without objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Victor Pallotta, Chair

Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council