

# CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting

July 7, 2014

Call to Order                      The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pallotta, Chair at 7:11 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes              Without objection, the minutes of June 2, 2014 were approved as submitted.

### Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. A-65                      An ordinance authorizing Administration [sic] to enter into a contract or contracts after obtaining proposals for energy efficiency programs, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by the Electric Superintendent, Michael Dougherty and Becky McCleary, Customer Advocate. Mr. Dougherty stated that the City has terminated the Efficiency Smart program that was run under contract by AMP during 2011-13. The City proposes its own program. Efficiency Smart cost the City \$600,000. This program would cost \$200,000 from the Electric Department and \$25,000 for Community Development. Ms. McCleary stated that under Efficiency Smart, residential rebates totaled \$27,192 over three years, including light bulbs and home energy conservation energy kits. The new program proposes giving away 1,000 such kits and light bulbs, using a budget of \$25,000. Appliance recycling rebates were paid under the Efficiency Smart program, totaling \$29,823 for 362 appliances. The new program proposes the same \$50 per appliance rebate with a budget of \$20,000. Purchase of a new energy efficient appliance could earn a \$15-\$250 rebate under Efficiency Smart. The new program will offer a \$50 rebate for washing machines and refrigerators. New appliance rebates would be limited to 80 per year and no more than 2 per household per year. The budget

for new appliance rebates would be \$4,000. Efficiency Smart did not offer on-site home energy audits. This program proposes to offer such audits for a nominal fee of \$25 which is refundable if the recommended improvements are made. The budget for home energy audits would be \$50,000 of which \$25,000 would come from the CDBG program. Commercial and Industrial rebates were offered by Efficiency Smart through energy audits and were based on energy usage reduction. Total commercial/industrial rebates were \$260,412 over 3 years. This program will hire a third party to evaluate energy efficiency actions proposed by customers and will provide a recommendation to the City for the rebate. A budget for the rebates of \$100,000 is proposed. The third party contract is budgeted at \$26,000. This program also proposes a marketing program consisting of bill stuffers and working with the Chamber of Commerce, along with ward meetings. Under Efficiency Smart, AMP guaranteed energy savings from all programs of 5,254 MWh. Actual savings were 8,143 MWh. This program offers no guarantees. Efficiency Smart paid out a total of \$332,000 in energy incentives over three years. This program is estimated to cost \$600,000 over three years. Mr. Dougherty stated that the program is already budgeted because Efficiency Smart was budgeted for 2014.

The Chair stated, inasmuch as Efficiency Smart has been cancelled since the beginning of the year, there have been no expenditures for this program to date. Mr. Dougherty agreed and stated that customers are now hoarding old appliances, waiting for the program to resume. The Chair asked if August 1<sup>st</sup> is the target date for the program to begin. Mr. Dougherty stated that it is.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who stated that 362 appliances at \$50 each produces \$18,100 in appliance rebates, and asked if the remainder of the

expenditures were the subcontractor's fee to haul them away. Ms. McCleary stated that it is. Mrs. Pyke asked why the ordinance does not specify which City officials will enter into the contracts, and asked which City officials would do so. The Law Director stated that the Directors of Public Service and Community Development may sign those contracts and the Mayor would sign contracts not needing Council approval. Mrs. Pyke asked how the ordinance should be amended to make it grammatically correct. The Law Director stated he would think about it.

The Chair recognized Mr. Colavecchio, who stated that the program would generate a \$375,000 savings every year over Efficiency Smart, and asked what that savings would be used for. Mr. Dougherty stated it would be rolled into the cost of power and used to help keep the cost of power down. Mr. Colavecchio stated that most of the program is directed at commercial customers, and asked how the applicants for rebates will be prioritized and selected if there is more demand than money budgeted. Mr. Dougherty stated there is a proposed budget for each component of the program, and money can be moved between components if necessary, but "once the money is gone, it's gone. It will be first come, first served." For commercial/industrial rebates, there will be a submission period and the City will assess the submissions and award based on their merits. Only \$100,000 of commercial rebates will be issued.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Snyder asked if taking the program in house would create a need for additional staff. Mr. Dougherty stated no staff increases are planned. Mrs. Snyder stated that most commercial and industrial energy efficiency projects are planned out over several years, and this program will help them plan their expenses accordingly.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Klinger, who asked if there will be three separate contracts or appliance recycling, home energy audits, and

commercial/industrial rebates. The Law Director stated that there will be contract for home energy audits, with Jayco for appliance recycling, and a third contract with AMP. Mrs. Klinger asked if all of those contracts would be authorized by this generic ordinance. The Law Director stated that the only contract requiring Council approval is the one with NDS. Mrs. Klinger asked if there would be a separate ordinance authorizing that contract. The Law Director stated that the intent was that this ordinance would cover it. Mrs. Klinger stated that the ordinance should list these contracts so that it is not so generic. The Law Director stated most of these contracts are below the threshold for Council approval. The Law Director stated he would work on changes to clarify this.

The Chair recognized the Mayor, who stated that AMP made a presentation to extend Efficiency Smart at a cost of \$2 million. Mr. Dougherty realized the City could save substantially and tailor the program to local needs by bringing it in house. The basic purpose of the program is to reduce system demand to allow the City to avoid purchasing power on the open market, thus reducing the City's overall costs and keeping rates down. The Mayor thanked Mr. Dougherty for his work in developing the program.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Klinger, who thanked the Mayor for pointing this out, and thanked Mr. Dougherty for his work in re-evaluating the Efficiency Smart program.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. A-65 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. A-67

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control File by providing for installation of various traffic control devices, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Police Chief Jack Davis. This ordinance will authorize the installation of a 4-way traffic signal at Chestnut Blvd. and Second Street. The signal was removed based upon a study of signal warrants in 2012. Since the light was removed, there have been a number of accidents. Other measures such as large stop signs and pavement markings have not helped.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who thanked the Mayor for putting the residents' needs above the cost of that signal. No one knows what is wrong with that intersection, but accidents have tripled since the signal was removed.

The Chair recognized a member of the public, Alice Francini, 1717 10<sup>th</sup> Street, who stated that the problem with the intersection is perception of speed of other vehicles based on the topography and the view obstruction created by retaining walls on the west side of Second Street. Unlike other changes in traffic controls, people could not get used to this change. Ms. Francini thanked the Mayor, the Chief, and Mrs. Pyke for listening to her concerns.

The Chair recognized a member of the public, Teddi Dowley, 607 Chestnut Blvd., who thanked Mrs. Pyke for working on this issue. Ms. Dowley stated she has witnessed several near-misses at this intersection with pedestrians as well as vehicles.

There was no opponent testimony.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. A-67 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. A-68

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association effective January 1, 2014, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by the Law Director, Russell Balthis, who stated that the ordinance authorizes the Mayor to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the OPBA, representing non-supervising police officers, which will provide a 2.25% wage increase retroactive to January 1, 2014. All other terms remain the same. The contract term ends on June 30, 2015. In the interim, the parties will engage in mediated interest-based bargaining, beginning July 11, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. A-68 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Temp. Ord. A-69

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association effective January 1, 2014, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by the Law Director, Russell Balthis, who stated that the ordinance is identical to Temp. Ord. A-68, except that it involves Police Sergeants and Lieutenants only.

There was no opponent testimony. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. A-69 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items

Chief Davis introduced Captain Steve Guldeman, who was promoted from Lieutenant.

The Chair announced a meeting of the ad hoc committee on alternative lending practices for Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Jefferson Room of the Natatorium.

Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Pallotta adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.



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Victor Pallotta, Chair



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Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council