

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting

September 15, 2014

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pallotta, Chair at 7:09 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Without objection, the minutes of the meetings of July 21, 2014 and July 28, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Agenda Items

Temp. Ord. A-87

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute the Summit County Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding for Job Creation and Retention and Tax Revenue Sharing, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by the Community Development Director Diane Sheridan. Ms. Sheridan stated that the Summit County Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding for Job Creation and Retention and Tax Revenue Sharing has been signed annually by the Mayor since 2009. All signatories to the MOU will receive 5% bonus points on the Ohio Public Works Commission project scoring system for District 8 infrastructure projects. The purpose of the MOU is to discourage economic development practices intended to attract businesses from Summit County community to another, and to provide compensation to the community losing the business when this happens. The 2012-2013 MOU was signed by 23 of the 31 eligible communities in Summit County. There was no MOU renewal in 2013-2014 because the agreement was not amended.

The Chair asked the City Engineer how Cuyahoga Falls has benefitted from this agreement. The City Engineer stated that since 2009 the City has received 12 points on the OPWC infrastructure scoring system

for the 10 projects where the City has applied to OPWC for grant funding.

The Chair asked the Water & Sewer Superintendent if the MOU affects extension of water service and water sharing agreements. The Superintendent stated that there are various locations where Akron water lines serve customers in Cuyahoga Falls, and Cuyahoga Falls lines serve customers in Akron.

The Chair recognized a member of the public, Connie Kraus, Summit County Director of Community Development. Ms. Kraus stated that Cuyahoga Falls has been a signatory to the MOU since its inception in 2009. It came about after a controversial relocation of a business from Macedonia to Hudson. The point bonus on OPWC grant applications was established as the incentive to sign. The Ohio Attorney General has stated that the MOU is legal. The MOU is designed to mitigate damages but also has provided a framework for communities to work together on economic development.

The Chair asked if any of the communities have used the arbitration process in the MOU. Ms. Kraus stated that it has never been used.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked if there are communities that have previously signed the agreement who will not sign it now. Ms. Kraus stated that the City of Stow signed the agreement in 2009 to get the project points, and then immediately withdrew. The MOU has since been amended to include a 180-day withdrawal clause and a point penalty for withdrawing. This is the only instance of a community refusing to renew. Mrs. Pyke asked if the City of Green is a signatory. Ms. Kraus stated they are not. They argue that they do not compete with Summit County for economic development opportunities.

The Chair asked for a list of signatories to the MOU. Ms. Sheridan recited the list signatories in 2012:

Akron, Barberton, Bath Twp., Boston Heights, Copley Twp., Coventry Twp., Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn, Hudson, Lakemore, Macedonia, Mogadore, New Franklin, Northfield, Peninsula, Reminderville, Richfield Twp., Richfield, Sagamore Hills Twp., Silver Lake, Springfield Twp., Tallmadge, and Twinsburg. The signatories for 2014 so far are: Barberton, Bath Twp., Boston Heights, Copley Twp., Lakemore, New Franklin, Northfield Center Twp., Northfield, Peninsula, Reminderville, Richfield Twp., and Twinsburg.

The Chair stated that if Cuyahoga Falls does not sign, it would lose the bonus project points for a period of two years. Ms. Kraus stated this is correct.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Pyke, who asked how many communities previously signed, and how many are currently signatories for 2014. Ms. Sheridan stated there 12. Last year there were 23. Mrs. Pyke asked the deadline for signing. Ms. Kraus stated it is September 30. Mrs. Kraus stated that all previous signers will sign, although Hudson will sign late.

The Chair recognized Ms. Klinger, who started that the movement of a business from one signatory community to another triggers a compensation requirement even if no economic development incentives are used. Mrs. Kraus stated that this is correct, but it is also dependent upon a 5% threshold of income taxes lost.

There was no opponent testimony.

Motion by Mr. Weinhardt to release Temp. Ord. A-87 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. DeRemer. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items

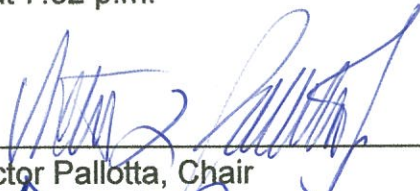
The Chair recognized a member of the public, Faith Greer, 1462 Kubic Drive, who asked City Council to adopt an ordinance restricting or banning pit bulls. Ms. Greer related her experience of an attack on her dog by a pit bull dog. She stated that pit bulls are

bred to attack other dogs, and sometimes they attack humans without warning. Every pit bull owner should carry a break stick. The City's ordinance does not restrict dogs unless they run at large.

The Chair recognized a member of the public, Anne Bickett, 1487 Sandhill Drive, who stated there are 5 pit bulls on her cul-de-sac of 12 homes. Pit bulls are kept by persons who have other things to hide, such as illegal drug activity. Property crime has occurred and property values have fallen. Mr. Mader has been helpful, but the neighborhood needs help.

Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Pallotta adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.



Victor Pallotta, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council