

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
September 21, 2009

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Debbie Ritzinger
Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. All committee members were present.

The minutes from the September 8, 2009 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation to be Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-79
Temp. Ord. B-80
Temp. Ord. B-81
Temp. Ord. B-82
Temp. Ord. B-83
Temp. Ord. B-84
Temp. Ord. B-85

Mr. Walters stated the Committee is continuing to hold Temp. Ord. B-71 until further notice.

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-79

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Director of Public Safety to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of various vehicles for use by the police department and declaring an emergency.

Chief Conley stated his department has an opportunity to get stimulus funding for vehicles. The narcotics unit budgeted last year for two a year. The funding expires on December 31, 2009. They pay quite a bit for leasing and thought they should use the stimulus funding offered to purchase vehicles instead. They want to do it before December 31. They would use the 215 law enforcement trust fund to cover the difference between the stimulus amount and the purchase amount for the two vehicles. Mr. Walters wondered since the cars are unmarked, whether it would look better to have an old piece driving up to a drug house to not call attention. Chief Conley stated the vehicles they are acquiring are similar to what they lease now. They lease later model vehicles. This will be a better cost savings measure. Mr. Walters asked if they are only getting two vehicles, does any of the language in the legislation need to be changed. Chief Conley stated they did not specify the number of vehicles. Mr. Walters questioned the dollar figure on line 29. Mr. Brodzinski stated they will not be receiving \$65,000 of grant money. That was for the purchase of three vehicles. If they go to two, it will be two-thirds of \$65,000. Chief Conley agreed. The total amount of the grant applied for is \$26,403. Mr. Arrington stated Council could make an amendment on the floor regarding the amount. Mrs. Klinger thought that one of the rationales behind leasing was so the department could rotate cars so they are not recognized. Chief Conley stated that has never been done in the six years he has been Chief. Mrs. Hummel stated that lines 19 and 20 talk about additional funds from the 215 fund and asked if that would still be happening. Mr. Brodzinski stated that is where the purchase is coming from so they need to up the appropriations in the capital sector. Mrs. Hummel stated that the grant amount is \$26,000 and asked whether the City would still be spending the total out of the 215 fund. Mr. Brodzinski stated it would. Mrs. Klinger stated that lines 16 and 17 did not appear to be

applicable. Chief Conley agreed. The stimulus requires the department to purchase first and then be reimbursed. Mr. Arrington stated since there is more than one change, he would be providing Council with a substitute.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-79.

Temp. Ord. B-80

An ordinance providing for the transfer of funds from the monies received from FEMA and increasing appropriations within the FEMA Public Assistance Fund for the year 2009, and declaring an emergency

Mr. Brodzinski stated these are the funds relating to the 2008 storms. We are funding them out to departments who incurred the costs. Mr. Walters stated Council had Exhibit A. He asked if the City was receiving \$67,022. Mr. Brodzinski stated that is the additional amount they need to transfer out the full \$177,691. The City would be reimbursed for costs incurred.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. 80.

Temp. Ord. B-81

An ordinance authorizing the City to become a member of the H-GAC, Cooperative Purchasing Program, and authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing, and declaring an emergency.

Chuck Novak found some opportunities for government procurement services. H-GAC is a government-to-government procurement service that is nationwide. It works the same as ODOT and others in Ohio. Contracts are awarded through competitive bidding. Many Ohio entities are part of this including Toledo. Entities could get vehicles for public works, parks and rec., energy vehicles, etc. In order to become a member, one of the required items is to pass an ordinance. There is no fee associated with this and no cost to the City. It has been around for 35 years. Mr. Novak stated he would continue to find the best price and compare between this and what the State has. Mrs. Pyke asked if there were any drawbacks to being a part of this. Mr. Novak stated not that he was aware. It just gives the City another opportunity to compare cost.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. 81.

Temp. Ord. B-82

An ordinance authorizing the City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio to become a member of the Local Government Purchasing Cooperative, and authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Interlocal Participation Agreement, and declaring an emergency.

Chuck Novak stated this is similar to Temp. Ord. B-81. It is based in Texas. The only difference is once you become a part of this group, everything is electronic. There is a computerized electronic purchasing system. There is no cost to join but some vehicles incur additional costs. It depends whether it is an engineering vehicle or some other vehicle. Mr. Walters asked if they handle used and new vehicles. Mr. Novak stated they just handle new vehicles.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. 82.

Temp. Ord. B-83

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract for professional engineering services to assist with audit compliance measures as required by North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and declaring an emergency.

Jeff McHugh stated NERC first notified them that their turn would come up to be audited. The audit was completed at the end of August. This is to cover the engineering services for the suggestions that were made in order to come into compliance. This audit is mandatory and required to be done every six years. The City was found to be in compliance but there was a suggestion that it could be considered to be a transmission operator so they are working with FirstEnergy to take over the one substation. The City would not incur any costs if FirstEnergy takes over and the City would stay classified as it is. They are hoping to be done by the end of the year or first part of 2010. Mrs. Klinger asked for a report back to Council should things change.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. 83.

Temp. Ord. B-84

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts for employment agency services for city departments, and declaring an emergency.

Debbie Meganhart stated the City is at the end of the second year of a two-year commitment with the employment agency being used for part-time employees.. They are going to bid to get new prices. The percentage mark-up two years ago was 23%. In 2007, it was 22.5%. It has been pretty consistent for the past four-year period. Mrs. Carr gave a history of why the City went with this method. It saves quite a bit of money on the workers' comp. side. If it were more to go this route, they would then put the employees back on the payroll. The part-time positions include school crossing guards and park maintenance. Utility Billing is also staffing a part-time meter reader to fill in the gap, but the majority is for the leaf program. The City does the hiring and contacts the agency with the names of candidates to be hired. It would be more expensive if the agency did the pre-testing and interviewing.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. 84.

Temp. Ord. B-85

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of certain property including certain electric facilities together with all appurtenances thereto, and declaring an emergency.

Bob Bye stated this allows the City to enter into an agreement with FirstEnergy to purchase facilities on Sycamore Lane which would allow the City to pick up four homes and a gas well. This has been in the works for a long time. The City would be getting nine poles, 3,500 feet of wire and cut-outs. The transformers would be returned to FirstEnergy because they are a lower voltage. Mrs. Klinger stated the budget sheet indicated this would be paid for with savings from the Substation 4 project. She asked if that project was completed. Mr. Bye stated it was not. It has been redesigned and there will be savings on the redesign. Mrs. Klinger asked what the total estimated cost was for Substation 4. Mr. Bye stated that right now, they have \$500,000 from that project.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. 85.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.