

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee

September 5, 2017

Members: Jeff Iula, Chair
Adam Miller
Mary Nichols-Rhodes

Mr. Iula called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-62

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-62

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts with DLZ Ohio, Inc. for right-of-way professional engineering services for improvements to Howe Avenue, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, stated that, as part of the Howe Avenue Improvement Project, several small pieces of land will be required in order build the project. A couple of these will be temporary easements needed for driveway construction and grading. There will be a few permanent easements needed for utilities and traffic equipment. There will be a total of 22 commercial properties that they will be negotiating with on the project. Through a qualified base selection process approved by ODOT, the City selected DLZ Ohio, Inc. to be the right-of-way consultant for the project. Their scope of work will include title searches, appraisals for the property that the City will be acquiring, offers to the property owners, negotiations with them and, hopefully, ultimately closings with these persons. DLZ's negotiated fee, which was approved by ODOT, will be \$101,450. Eighty percent of those costs will be reimbursed back to the City. The environmental document for the project was approved last week and they are waiting on the Federal Government for authorization on the right-of-way activities, which should come this week. The right-of-way is due to be completed by December of 2018. The project will be bid by ODOT in December of 2018 or January of 2019. Construction will begin in the spring of 2019 and is scheduled to be complete the summer of 2020. The project will include correcting roadway deficiencies, optimizing traffic operations, improving pedestrian safety and mobility, improving roadway drainage and replacing the five traffic signals between Main Street and Bucholzer Boulevard.

Mr. Iula stated that breaking ground will not be started until 2019. There will always be two lanes open, but only going one way. Mr. Demasi stated that there will be a period where eastbound traffic will be detoured down Home Avenue to Independence Avenue and then back up Bucholzer Boulevard. Westbound traffic will be maintained through the corridor. Mr. Iula asked if they have heard from any merchants on that. Mr. Demasi stated that there were letters sent out. There is a letter posted on the City's website right now. Notifications were sent to the newspapers, as well.

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They are constantly soliciting information and feedback. Mr. Iula stated that the road would be the same width, but they must take some of the land for driveways.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-62 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.