

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
September 7, 2010

Members: Mark Ihasz, Chair
Kathy Hummel
Jeff Iula

Mr. Ihasz called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the July 19, 2010 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-82

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-82

An ordinance enacting Chapter 111 of the Codified Ordinances, titled "Council Rules" and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Colavecchio first approved the minutes from the July 19 Ad Hoc Committee meeting. She stated the Committee met for the last time on July 19 and had three additional changes. She then distributed some selected voting language for committee chairs to use going forward when legislation was being brought out of committee for a vote.

The first change that was discussed was in Section 111.03(a) on Meetings. They replaced "Natorium and Wellness Center" with "at a place periodically decided by Council" because there are times when Council meets in another location.

The second change was in 111.04(m) dealing with how matters are brought out of committee for a vote. They came up with new language for chairs to use when legislation is brought out of the committee. In the past, once legislation has been discussed, the chairs informally look at other members and say "shall we bring this out for a vote." The Committee determined that is not a valid vote so they are moving to a formal way of bringing legislation out of committee. Mrs. Pyke asked what would happen if only two members were present and the vote was split. Mrs. Klinger stated it would fail. Mrs. Colavecchio added you would still need to have a quorum. Mrs. Pyke stated it was previously left to the committee chair to bring legislation out so this is basically taking that away from the chair. Mrs. Colavecchio stated that was correct. There may be a situation where a committee member is not in favor of bringing something out and it could fail as well. She added that assuming this legislation is voted on and approved, committee chairs were to use the new language going forward at the end of their next committee meeting. Two of the three members must vote "yes" to bring legislation out. She was aware it will take time to get use to this and there may be some learning curve for everyone.

The last change was in Section 111.09(j) regarding e-mail notifications. They deleted the first two sentences and added at the end "and to the Clerk for inclusion in the minutes." Basically, if a Council member requests information during a committee meeting from the Administration, and the response is sent by e-mail, the Administration must copy everyone on Council. Mrs. Pyke asked whether Council members were allowed to communicate via e-mail after legislation is brought out for a vote. Mrs. Colavecchio stated not if it is pending legislation. That would be a violation.

Mrs. Colavecchio stated there was also a typo in 111.03(e)(7). She will fix that.

Mrs. Hummel moved to bring A-82 out of Ad Hoc Committee, second by Mrs. Klinger. Motion passed (3-0).

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-82.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.