

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting**  
**September 8, 2009**

**Members:** Vince Rubino, Chair  
Kathy Hummel  
Ken Barnhart

Mr. Rubino called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. All committee members were present.

The minutes from the July 20, 2009 and July 27, 2009 meetings were approved as submitted.

**Legislation to be Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. B-73

Temp. Res. B-78

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-73**

An ordinance declaring a mural depicting the Cuyahoga Falls Marching Band to be a work of art exempt from the sign regulations of Chapter 1146 of the Codified Ordinances and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Arrington stated this is a result of changes made to the sign code three years ago. When the City adopted the new code, there was a list of types of displays that would be exempt from the regulations. One is if it is deemed to be a work of art. The Code says if Council determines something to be a work of art, it would be exempt. If not, it would be subject to the regulations. This mural is not a sign and it is not advertising anything. It is giving honor to the Cuyahoga Falls Marching Band. Mr. Rubino stated he talked to Mr. James Stahl, the owner of Central Instrument Co. He requested Mr. Jim Stanley to do the artwork. Mr. Rubino indicated Mr. Stahl was not present this evening but Mr. Stanley was. He asked Mr. Stanley if he wished to share his vision of this.

Jim Stanley of Distinctive Images stated that Mr. Stahl came to them a few months ago with his thoughts. They talked to the schools who loved the idea. The music community in the City got behind them and this project took on a life of its own. It has since gained the support of everyone in the community. He stated it was Mr. Stahl's intention to keep the mural just as depicted in the example being shown to Council. He wants to keep it crisp and sharp at all times. The process used to put it on the building will be a type of laminate on sheets of aluminum. It will be done in panels so they can be replaced easily, if necessary. Mr. Rubino asked if the Band Director indicated that the picture was clear enough that releases would be needed from the youth. Mr. Stanley was not aware of that. No one had indicated any problem to him. He added that the mural should last seven to eight years. He also indicated it was Mr. Stahl's desire to eventually illuminate the mural. Mrs. Pyke stated she originally talked about excusing herself because her son is a member of the band. However, she no longer thinks that is actually a conflict and so has decided she will be voting in favor of this legislation. Mrs. Klinger was glad this business is so engaged in the community. She wished other business in the community would be so engaging.

***Committee recommended bring out Temp. Ord. B-73.***

**Temp. Res. B-78**

A resolution urging the Metro Regional Transit Authority to reconsider the change of the pickup/drop off location for Sutliff I and II residents in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Pyke stated there are two Sutcliffe buildings located between Second and Fourth Street containing 184 units. The people in these buildings are disabled and on fixed incomes. Recently, a letter from Metro was sent to the residents about removing the stop outside their building. The letter states that shelters would be placed at Third St. and Falls Avenue, which means the residents would now have to walk down Third Street to get to the bus stop. The problem is that most of the residents cannot walk distances. Also, portions of the area do not have sidewalks. This plan would place a burden on these residents. Mrs. Pyke read a letter from Deacon Kochanski of St. Joseph School. In the letter, Deacon Kochanski pointed out the proximity of the planned new Metro stop to the school bus stop and the number of small children who would be in the area. Also, there is increased traffic during school drop offs and pick ups. A Metro stop would add to the congestion and to the confusion. Mrs. Pyke stated in February, Council talked with Metro about Issue 8. She asked at that time that changes to the Sutcliffe bus stop not be made. The residents need to be safe and warm. Metro states its decision is based on ridership and pointed out that they've added additional stops. Mrs. Pyke stated she would rather see good quality given to residents than see quantity. Mrs. Colavecchio stated she would be supporting this legislation. She was surprised that Metro seemed to up and change their pick-up support for seniors and handicapped residents.

Louwana Oliva is the Assistant Director at Metro. She stated it takes eight to ten minutes for a bus to go through the Sutcliffe parking lot. Often times, buses have to be backed out due to delivery trucks and illegally parked cars blocking the way. They are also getting only five to ten riders a day from the buildings. It is the worst-performing route in the system. They increased services from 6 to 11 stops on that route and extended it to Walmart and the Dollar Store. Mr. Rubino asked Ms. Oliva how she sees this being resolved. Ms. Oliva did not know. She stated the buses tend to bottom out if they enter the other entrance and they cannot take a bus out Sackett. They have issues in getting out of the parking lots. Mrs. Hummel asked whether the problems with the driveway and parked cars were discussed with management. Mrs. Oliva did not know and indicated she could find out. Mrs. Hummel asked if that issue were resolved, would Metro consider reinstating the pick-up. Mrs. Oliva stated if they add the pick-up back in, that would affect how many times Metro went in there. Mrs. Hummel stated she understood not everyone would be happy but she encouraged discussions between Metro and management. It is important for residents that an agreement be worked out so the delivery trucks are not blocking access nor people parking illegally. Mrs. Hummel felt sure that Mrs. Pyke would facilitate the discussions. Mrs. Colavecchio stated that some of the problems mentioned by Ms. Oliva may no longer exist since management recently redid the parking lot. There should not be as many people parking illegally. Mrs. Pyke added she was also concerned with where Metro wants to place the bus shelter. Putting a shelter by a school, especially on Falls Avenue which is a hill, is not the best location. She asked if the shelter would be put on the City's property or on the homeowner's. Ms. Oliva stated they do it both ways. Several Sutcliffe residents were present and stated their concerns about no longer having the stop outside their building. Some are in wheelchairs or have canes and, even if those residents could get to the new stop, what will happen in the winter when snow covers the sidewalks. They would not be able to navigate over unshoveled walkways and would have to risk their safety and use the street. They stated Metro came to them to ask for their support for its

Issue and said residents would not lose service. Now, the issue has passed and residents are still losing their bus service. Mr. Rubino stated this sounded like a difficult problem. He appreciated everyone coming out to speak on it.

***Committee recommended bring out Temp. Res. B-78***

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.