

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting

February 3, 2014

Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pallotta at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes Without objection, the minutes of the January 6, 2014 and January 21, 2014 Committee meetings were approved.

Agenda Items

Temp. Res. A-3 A resolution authorizing the Director of Public Service to apply for and accept a grant from the Summit/Akron Solid Waste Management Authority, and declaring an emergency.

Proponent testimony was offered by Street/Sanitation Superintendent Charles Novak. The Chair asked about reduction of solid waste volumes since waste collection was automated. Mr. Novak stated that since 2004 solid waste transferred to landfills had been reduced from 19,000 tons to 16,500 tons annually. Automation of waste collection resulted in a reduction of waste streams by 13%, and later automation of the recycling program reduced waste streams by another 9%, to a total of 15,000 tons in 2013. When considering the City's recycling, yard waste and leaf collection programs together, the City's Sanitation program diverts 10,000 tons of waste out of 25,000 tons collected annually away from landfills; a diversion rate of 40%. Automation has increased the rate of resident recycling by 43% and reduced Workers' Compensation claims by 85% and the City has been able to avoid a sanitation rate increase for 10 years. The Summit/Akron Solid Waste Management Authority levies a \$5 fee on each ton of waste transferred to landfills, \$1 of which is set aside to fund this grant program. Grants are provided to municipalities based upon their population relative

to other Summit County communities and the extent of recycling capacity made available to residents. Cuyahoga Falls typically receives 100% of its allocation because it makes recycling capacity available to 100% of its residents. The grant proceeds typically are \$38,000 to \$45,000 and are used to pay salaries of employees operating the recycling program.

The Chair asked the Service Director, Eric Czetli, for comments. Mr. Czetli stated that the City's waste collection vehicles and "e-poke" salt spreaders are state-of-the-art technologies that permit the City's operational efficiency to be second to none. The City's fleet of computerized "e-poke" salt spreaders saved 6,918 tons of salt for a savings of \$338,000 in 2013. In the 8 years since the "e-poke" salt spreaders have been in service, they have saved a total of 51,680 tons of salt for a total savings of \$2,383,000. Mr. Czetli noted that Cuyahoga Falls was one of the first cities in the nation to have a fleet of "e-poke" salt spreaders.

The Chair recognized the Mayor, who stated that the City is examining different strategies for sanitation billing, such as charging "per tip" rather than per month, which would allow customers to save by placing a bin for collection only when it is full. These considerations are only in the preliminary phase.

The Chair recognized Mr. Weinhardt, who asked if smaller carts were available for customers who want them. Mr. Novak stated that smaller containers are available trash and recycling under the "limited service" program.

The Chair recognized Mr. Colavecchio, who asked if recycling is available for entities that are not residential sanitation customers of the City. Mr. Novak stated that the City's program is restricted to its customers. Commercial and multi-family entities are serviced by private haulers.

The Chair recognized Mrs. Snyder, who asked about the revenue earned from recycling. Mr. Novak stated that the City receives 75% of the revenue earned from the sale of recycled materials, and in 2013 received approximately \$30 per ton of recycled materials delivered.

Motion by Mr. DeRemer to release Temp. Res. A-3 with a favorable recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Weinhardt. Motion adopted by acclamation.

Non-Agenda Items

None.

Adjournment

Without objection, Chairman Pallotta adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.



Victor Pallotta, Chair



Paul A. Janis, Clerk of Council