

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
January 2, 2007

Members: Debbie Ritzinger, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Doug Flinn

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of December 4, 2006 were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered:

Temp. Ord. A-165

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-165

An ordinance appropriating certain interests in real and personal property consisting of portions of the lots of properties abutting Chart Road between State Road and Keyser Parkway, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Ritzinger read A-165 (second reading). Hope Jones said the City is currently in negotiation with property owners. Mr. Demasi said 6 have already signed, and he hopes to have another 8 by the end of this week. The remaining 13 are still being negotiated.

Mrs. Jones reviewed the procedure. After Council approves the legislation, the law allows the City to use a "quick-take" for road improvements. The City would file complaints against those property owners with whom negotiations have failed, then deposit checks for the appraised value of the properties. Once checks are deposited, the City is entitled to the property and can begin work on the project.

Mrs. Ritzinger asked for a status report on the negotiations. Mrs. Jones suggested that monetary issues be discussed in executive session. Mr. Gorbach asked if this ordinance would be Council's final act prior to eminent domain. Mrs. Jones said yes. Mr. Gorbach said he would like the ordinance held in committee pending the executive session. While he doesn't want to hold up the project, he wants to insure that residents have accurate information regarding the process.

Mr. Demasi said that when counteroffers are received from property owners through DLZ, the City discusses them immediately. Mr. Gorbach inquired about the parameters of the discussion.

Mr. Demasi said that cabinet members consider the reasoning behind the counteroffers and make decisions on an individual basis.

Mr. Gorbach said he would like to have some idea as to what the City offered, what the residents demanded, and what the difference is. He asked what would happen if the legislation were held for a couple of weeks. Mrs. Carr said the City is negotiating in earnest and hopes to begin the project as soon as possible, while the weather is still mild. Mayor Robart cautioned against any delay in passing the legislation since that could involve Council in the negotiation process.

Mr. Gorbach asked for an executive session before the Council meeting on January 8, 2007. He would like to see the exhibits for the ordinance at that meeting.

Frank Tompkins (124 Chart Road) said he met with DLZ representatives on November 15 and countered immediately with six questions. He received a response 23 days later (December 8) and submitted a counteroffer on December 21. To date, he has not heard anything from the City. Mr. Demasi said the City received Mr. Tompkins' counteroffer on December 22 and will discuss it on January 3. He will have an answer for Mr. Tompkins by noon on January 3.

Mrs. Ritzinger asked Mrs. Jones to send out a request for the executive session to be held January 8.

The Committee recommended bringing out A-165 for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

