

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Public Affairs Meeting**  
**October 1, 2007**

**Members:** Debbie Ritzinger, Chair  
Diana Colavecchio  
Doug Flinn

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Mrs. Colavecchio was absent.

**Legislation Held:**

None

**Legislation Considered**

Temp. Ord. B-126

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-126**

An ordinance to change the name of Main Street, from Broad Boulevard north to Portage Trail, to Americhem Way, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated Americhem made major decisions to stay in the City and make its global headquarters here. They are requesting renaming of Main Street to Americhem Way.

Bob Tebbit, Executive VP of Global Mfg., stated they've made a \$3.5 million investment to renovate the research and development facilities and corporate HQ. Interior work includes expanding the building and moving equipment. Operations are underway and they are looking to complete it within a month. Exterior work at the south end of the building should be completed in November. They will be demolishing the north end of the building in December. Landscaping will be completed in the spring. The new road in front has been an improvement over what was there for many years.

Mrs. Ritzinger stated she was very happy this was being done. Mrs. Hummel stated the legislation said from Broad Blvd. to Portage Trail and asked if the road would be going to Portage Trail. Mrs. Truby indicated there could be a second phase in the future and, if that is the case, the road would continue and remain named as Americhem Way. Mrs. Hummel stated she was having trouble envisioning the road coming out on Portage Trail. Mrs. Truby stated it would actually curve and come out on Newberry. Mr. Demasi added that Portage Trail and Main Street used to intersect until the bridge was built, but the maps still show the intersection and the right-of-way that still exists. They worded the legislation to be consistent with the map. Mr. Arrington stated he was comfortable with the language as it was written.

Mr. Walters asked if CSX would have any equipment that could damage the road. Mrs. Truby stated she met with CSX many times and they have reviewed the plans and signed off on everything. She was hoping the silver shanty would be removed but apparently, there are no plans to do so at this time. Mrs. Carr stated that any heavy equipment that CSX would bring in would be by rail so that would not affect the road, and Mrs. Truby added that the street was designed for heavy truck equipment. Mrs. Pyke asked who was responsible for the mound of dirt next to the retaining wall. Mrs. Truby stated they were waiting

until fall for the plantings due to the drought. There is an agreement for an exchange of services. Americhem would maintain the landscaping if the City provides electric to the light and sign. There will also be water on the property.

***The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-126 for approval.***

**Temp. Res. B-127**

A resolution expressing support for the “employee free choice act,” and urging Congress to pass this Act in order to protect and preserve the Freedom of America’s Workers to choose for themselves whether or not to form a union, and declaring an emergency.

Bill Crooks, Tri-County Regional Labor Council, 508 Chart Road, presented the information on this legislation. He said it would give employees the opportunity to level the playing field. Sixty percent of people would choose to join a union if it was on a level playing field. He was just asking for Council support of the resolution. Mr. Walters stated this was passed by the House but not by the Senate yet, and it would probably be vetoed by the current President. In 1948, forming unions were how things were done, but unions have changed in this country dramatically over the past 40 years.

Mr. Barnhart felt the wording of the legislation was abusive and full of accusations that were not supported by any proof. In particular, he felt lines 25-61 were nothing more than accusations and really were not necessary. He is not against unions but feels that some have become greedy. He cannot support this legislation as written but could if lines 25 through 61 were deleted. Mr. Crooks stated he did not write the resolution but said in his personal experience, he was unable to negotiate a contract in less than two years. Mr. Barnhart stated that many of the companies in this country have moved south due to the demands made by unions and pointed to the rubber industry as an example. Mr. Crooks agreed that unions used to be greedy but didn’t feel they were now.

Mr. Flinn stated he was a member of a union for nine years before becoming part of management. He was not going to discuss the benefits or non-benefits of unions. He agrees with Mr. Barnhart that lines 25 through 61 were inflammatory. He does not feel this legislation has any business being before Council. and even if those lines were deleted, he still would not support this legislation. He is not against unions being formed and agreed they do some good things. However, he is not pleased this is sitting in front of a local city council with less than a month before an election. He stated that with he and Mrs. Ritzinger being the only two committee members present, he could vote to not bring it out and then it wouldn’t be brought out, but he won’t do that.

***The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-127 for approval.***

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.