

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee Meeting
October 20, 2008

Members: Debbie Ritzinger, Chair
Mark Ihasz
Terry Mader

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Considered:

Temp. Ord. A-112

Temp. Ord. A-113

Temp. Ord. A-114

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-112

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract and/or contracts according to law to participate in the repair of the railroad crossing at Bailey Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Carr stated it has been a long journey but the City has finally arranged with CSX to do some upgrades. This project was not budgeted because she thought it would take longer than it has to get CSX to this point. The City will be getting \$65,000 back from the Broad Blvd. project so the City told CSX to keep it and apply it toward Bailey Road. However, CSX sent the money to the City anyway. In July, CSX indicated it wanted to do temporary repairs to Bailey Road but the City refused to close the road for only temporary repairs. The deal now is that repairs will be \$244,085. Of that, the City will share in \$138,719 and CSX \$97,366. The City pays for materials and CSX will handle the labor. They will use the money left over from the Route 8 signage project and the \$65,000. The project may not start until the first quarter of 2009.

Mrs. Ritzinger asked whether it was possible that CSX may call and want to start sooner. Mrs. Carr stated the City tries to get two weeks' notice but they take what CSX gives. The length of the project will be shorter than Broad. It will probably be a week.

Mr. James stated he was glad to see this finally happening. He asked whether any consideration has been given to do a quiet zone study. Mrs. Carr stated they've looked at it for both crossings. She explained that in a quiet zone, the trains do not have to blow their horns. For crossings in quiet zones, you have to install two bars to close off the entire crossing so cars cannot go around them. That is something the community would have to pay for. It is not funded by anyone else. They would want a study done by an engineering firm. Mr. James stated that people understand about the sound of a train but the horns sound both night and day. Mrs. Klinger stated for the residents on Talbot, it is a big issue. She asked whether the City could use CDBG money to help pay for the study to be done. Mrs. Truby indicated she would look into it.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-112.

Temp. Ord. A-113

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the City of Cuyahoga Falls parking lot at 2300 2nd street in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated the City completed a design for the parking lot and issued bids, which were opened on September 30. There were eleven responses. They will be closing the entrance to the City Building parking lot on Second Street to provide for safer flow of traffic. The new parking lot will be attached to the existing lot and will provide 40 additional parking spaces. They took the landscaping out to keep costs down. The City will do the landscaping. The project is not budgeted but they plan to use the funds from land preservation projects. With the favorable weather, they would like to get started now.

Mrs. Ritzinger stated she was excited about this project and added she was surprised to discover it was \$30,000 cheaper to do concrete rather than asphalt. Mrs. Hummel asked whether the large trees currently on the property were going to be maintained. Mrs. Carr stated they will not because they are Ash trees. Mrs. Hummel commented about the handicapped spaces being on Stow Avenue. Mrs. Truby stated they will also have spaces close to the building. The ones on Stow will mostly likely be used by the churches. There is a requirement to have a certain number of handicapped spaces because of the 40 new spaces. Mrs. Hummel asked if the mail and utility collection boxes would be moved. Mrs. Truby stated the utility boxes will remain where they are. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if this project would be paid entirely from land preservation. Mrs. Truby stated it would. Mrs. Colavecchio stated there are some specific requirements as to what that fund can be used for and wondered if this project fell within those requirements. Mrs. Truby stated when the ordinance was passed, the City set up a land preservation account. It is a separate fund and each year they budget money into it. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if there were any other intended uses for those funds. Mrs. Truby stated there will not. Also, they are in the process of completing the five-year plan so she could not yet state whether there would be anything budgeted for next year.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-113.

Temp. Ord. A-114

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for professional services to conduct Phase II Environmental Assessments, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated this is an important step with regard to the State Road shopping center. They need to apply to the state for funding to help with demolition. The firm the City has selected is budgeted at \$75,000. The application to the State is due in January and a lot of work needs to be done between now and then. They are asking for a vote now to get an additional week. They are ready to move.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-114.

Mrs. Pyke had a question on A-113. She wanted confirmation that the City has received no requests to use the land preservation money for next year. Mrs. Truby stated they had not. Mrs. Colavecchio stated it was her understanding the City had received money for property along Mud Brook. Mrs. Truby stated the residents were hopeful the City could purchase that property and use the money. A builder bought it instead and the current status is that the financing fell

through. Mrs. Truby added that she sent Council a letter approximately nine months ago that they were dealing with owners for property at Tamsin Park, but not everyone was ready to move forward. Mrs. Pyke stated she liked what the City was doing here but was surprised that the City could use the money when the specified criteria was not met. Mrs. Truby stated it will create a better look in the City and will enhance the entrance of the civic center of downtown. Mr. Robart added that to a large degree the City has followed the spirit of the ordinance to which Mrs. Pyke referred. In terms of what the City has done in looking for projects, some we have far exceeded and others, we haven't. All-in-all, he felt the ordinance has been held true to form but the City just hasn't matched it dollar for dollar. Mr. Brodzinski stated that basically what we are talking about financially is appropriation. At the end of the day, the appropriation is sitting there. They've just tied it to another project. Mrs. Pyke stated she is not against using the money but was just surprised. She wanted to make sure that projects meet the criteria.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.