

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
November 17, 2008**

Members: Don Walters, Chair
 Debbie Ritzinger
 Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the October 6, 2008, October 20, 2008 and November 3, 2008 committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. A-119
Temp. Ord. A-123
Temp. Ord. A-124
Temp. Ord. A-125

Mr. Walters stated that Temp. Ord. A-119 would continue to be held at the request of Administration.

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-123

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to make payments to Summit County Crime Stoppers in an amount equal to two times the original dollar amount allocated by the Summit County Crime Stoppers Board, for each tip leading to an arrest and conviction for any crime committed within the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Walters stated this is a great program administered within Summit County. There is no Caller I.D. or any other indication of names or addresses. It is for when someone knows something about an unresolved crime and for whatever reason, does not come forward. By calling Crime Stoppers, the caller given an I.D. number. If the information they call in is used to help solve the crime, they receive an award. The amount of the award is commensurate with the level of the crime. What this legislation proposes is to double the amount paid to an informant whose information helps solve a crime that took place in Cuyahoga Falls. The reward ends up being a net triple payment for the informant. Last year, no money was paid for any crimes that occurred in Cuyahoga Falls but that may be because there were no tips called in. Crime Stoppers is funded by donations from private entities. They also have an annual golf fundraiser. They have an eleven-member board of volunteers who determine how much each tip will receive. If the publicity for this legislation gets out there, it may help generate tips. The tips do not have to go only through Crime Stoppers. They could be called into the Police Dept. as well. The number for Crime Stoppers is 434-COPS. Mr. Walters stated that the only change that needs to be made to the legislation is that in lines 12 and 32, the word "conviction" should be "indictment" because the tip needs only to lead to an indictment and not to a conviction. He added that tips to Crime Stoppers has lead to a 97% conviction rate. Mr. James felt this was a wonderful idea and has been behind it since it was first discussed. He believes it will lead to indictments within the City and help with crackdowns on meth labs. He indicated he'd like to be included as a co-sponsor. Mr. Walters agreed and stated if any other Council members wanted to be included, to let the Clerk know. He added he did not want anyone to think that this legislation meant Cuyahoga Falls had a lot of crime. He was just trying to be proactive, not reactive.

Karen Nelsch, North Haven Blvd., asked what kind of money was paid out. Was it \$50? \$500? Mr. Walters stated it was up to \$2,000 per tip which would make it \$6,000 in Cuyahoga Falls. The amount is based on the level of crime. It may also be affected by the amount of donations received as to how lenient the board was with payouts.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-123.

Temp. Ord. A-124

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the sale of equipment no longer used by the City, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated in working with the Finance Department, she thought it would be appropriate to sell things contained in the buildings of the State Road Shopping Center, so the City will be holding an auction. They will divide the shopping center into three sections and will start with the Montgomery Wards end of the complex. The first sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 29 at 10:00 a.m. Items will be tagged and must be paid for that day. They will assess the results of the first auction before determining whether to move forward with the second and third. They need Council's approval in case an item sells in excess of \$1,000.

Mr. Walters asked if the leases spelled out what was allowed to be taken. Mrs. Truby stated that one tenant still remained in the north-end so no one will be allowed to go into that business. This is just for the vacant businesses. Also, they will not be allowed to remove the exterior doors or windows. The City wants to keep the property secure.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-124.

Temp. Ord. A-125

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the maintenance of the heating and air conditioning system and the automatic control systems in various municipal buildings, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated that the current contract for the HVAC system expires on December 31. The previous contract was in 2004 with two extensions. There are two parts to this: One is for scheduled maintenance and routine quarterly items. The second is for emergency repairs which are done on an as-needed basis beyond the normal scheduled maintenance.

Mr. Walters stated this was for a two-year contract which explains the difference in numbers. He asked if the City did any of this in-house. Mr. Demasi stated they did not. He added that the cost was distributed based on the amount of equipment each department has. The emergency repairs are billed to the pertinent department.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-120

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.