

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Meeting
December 10, 2007

Members: Debbie Ritzinger, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Doug Flinn

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Held:

Sub. Temp. Ord. B-153

Legislation Considered

Temp. Res. B-165 (Public Affairs)

A resolution declaring support for and urging swift passage of House Bill 333 in the Ohio General Assembly, regulating check cashing and payday lending businesses, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Arrington indicated that in April, Council enacted a similar resolution with regard to the Senate Bill. This legislation is for House Bill 333 which was recently introduced by Mr. Batchelder and pertains to the regulation of payday lending businesses. Passage of this Bill would prohibit borrowers from having more than one loan at a time and it would also prohibit them from getting a loan on the same day another loan is paid off. Also, interest would be capped at 36% per year, and it would make payday lending subject to Truth-in-Lending disclosures. Basically, it will put tighter controls on the payday lending industry.

Hugh Utterback, Canton, Ohio, indicated he had forwarded an email inviting anyone interested to contact him or visit his store but no one has taken him up on his offer. H.B. 333 would put them out of business. They are not what everyone thinks they are. He believed Council would be doing a great disservice to the citizens of Cuyahoga Falls as well as the State of Ohio if it supports this issue. He did not feel Council has heard both sides. It is a very complex issue and he does not think Council should get involved in this kind of situation where members speak for the public. It is only a few people who abuse the borrowing.

Mr. Gorbach thanked Mr. Utterback for coming and appreciated his comments. He also indicated he received the e-mail and while Council members may not have taken Mr. Utterback up on his offer, that did not mean they didn't visit another store or that they didn't research the issue. Council is voting on what it feels is best for the citizens of Cuyahoga Falls and Summit County. They are doing what they feel their citizens would want them to do and what they feel is correct. He is proud to support this issue.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-653.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.