

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting**  
**December 3, 2007**

**Members:** Tim Gorbach, Chair  
Jerry James  
Carol Klinger

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the November 5, 2007 and November 19, 2007 committee meetings were approved as submitted.

**Legislation Considered**

Temp. Ord. B-159

Temp. Ord. B-160

Temp. Ord. B-161

Temp. Ord. B-162

**Discussion:**

Mr. Gorbach stated Temp. Ord. Nos. B-159, B-160 and B-161 had to do with the budget. As Council does each year, these ordinances will be discussed and held each week until they are voted upon at the end of the year.

**Temp. Ord. B-162**

An ordinance enacting Section 923.02 of the Codified Ordinances and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Carr stated they have been working in Ward 8 to extend additional water lines. One particular area is W. Bath Road where residents are having trouble getting water delivered. Many water distributors have gone out of business because more people have water lines. They talked to the W. Bath Road residents about the City providing water by truck. They purchased a tank to go on an existing truck that can hold 1,600 gallons of water. They would do a flat rate if a resident does not have a water line. The cost of the water is minimal. Most of the cost is labor and fuel. This is only to get the residents through until the City can run a water line to them.

Mr. Gorbach indicated he spoke with one family out there who appreciates this solution. It can be a stop gap until there is a line run out there. He appreciates this legislation.

Mr. Mader thanked Administration for moving forward with this. He is hopefully that the City can be successful in getting lines out there.

Mr. Barnhart asked if there was going to be an announcement regarding the availability of this service because there are residents on Dillon he felt would be interested in it. Mrs. Carr stated they will send a letter to residents who do not have City water in addition to doing a press release.

Rebecca Garner, 1336 W. Bath Road, thanked the Mayor and Mrs. Carr for working with them in getting a truck to provide them with water.

***Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-162.***

Finance Committee recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

**Temp. Ord. B-159**

An ordinance providing for current operating expenses of the City of Cuyahoga Falls by appropriating, re-appropriating and transferring money within and for the various funds hereinafter set forth, and declaring an emergency.

**Temp. Ord. B-160**

An ordinance making the annual appropriation for the current expenses, other expenditures and the capital outlays of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008, and declaring an emergency.

**Temp. Ord. B-161**

An ordinance adopting the report on staffing for the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the year 2008 and declaring an emergency.

Storm Drainage Utility: There is an increase of 4.84% over 2007 due to an increase in capital outlay. Russ Kring discussed the projects listed. With regard to Project Partner, they completed 978 inspections. Of those, 553 passed and 316 failed mostly due to sanitary connections or laterals. He felt that \$120,000 would be adequate for 2008.

With regard to the river study, Mrs. Carr stated they wanted to set money aside for this project. They have had discussions with the EPA who wants to take the dams down. The City does not want that without doing a study to determine the impact on the City's storm sewers. There are some groups who are supportive and are willing to also put some funds toward this. The EPA would fully fund taking the dams down if that is the way it goes. Mrs. Hummel asked if there was some correlation between that study and potential flooding since it is coming out of the storm drainage utility account. She voted for this fund to help residents with flooding. If removing the dams does not mean flooding in neighborhoods, then that should not be coming out of this. Mr. Demasi stated that anything the City does along the river is a storm water function. They do not know if removing the dams would cause flooding until a study is done. Mrs. Hummel reiterated that she does not see it as an expenditure out of storm water unless there is a relation to flooding. Mrs. Carr added that storm water management is not just the control of water but also the quality of water going back into the river. Whatever our system puts into the river affects the quality. It is important to know what is happening to the river. That is why they made that tie-in.

With regard to the leaf machines, Mr. Brodzinski stated they put that into this category because the purpose of the leaf machines was to keep leaves out of the storm sewers. This is for the storm sewer side. Mrs. Carr added that it is truly for storm sewers because the only reason the City picks up leaves is to keep them out of the storm sewers. Mrs. Hummel stated putting the leaf machine in this category is a big departure from what she agreed to when this fund was created. This fund was created to help people with flooding in their neighborhood.

Municipal Court – There is an increase of 5.25% from 2007 due to the additional request for three full-time positions, as well as increases in other operations such as postage and maintenance/service. Rick Klinger discussed the three full-time positions being requested and added they are operating with one person down right now.

Clerk of Courts – There is an increase of .54% over 2007. Mr. Gorbach noted there were no additional people being requested.

Council – There is an increase of 4.77% over 2007 due to a cost of living increase, pension and additional hospitalization.

Mayor – There is an increase of 6.12% from 2007 due to a cost of living increase, pension and additional hospitalization. Mr. Brodzinski stated that three years ago, the employees’ portion of PERS was 13.55%. Next year, employees will be paying 10% and employers 14%, which puts things more in line with what schools do.

Finance Director – There is an increase of 7.50% over 2007 due to budgeting a full-time staff accountant while reducing a part-time position, and also due to cost of living and step increases. Mr. Brodzinski stated they removed the part-time position and put in a full-time one. They had an opening in income tax and are evaluating to see if that position needs to be filled. He would only fill the staff accountant’s position if they do not fill the one in income tax.

Income Tax – There is an increase of 3.84% over 2007 because the transfer was greater due to a higher prior year fund balance carryover. It is also due to reduced payroll and personnel changes. Mr. Gorbach noted that delinquencies had increased in 2007 and that it is budgeted to maintain that. Mr. Brodzinski indicated part of the spike was due to the economy.

Law Director – There is a decrease of (1.04%) from 2007 due to budgeting for one less part-time prosecutor. Mr. Gorbach questioned whether the court leaving in 2009 would further affect the number of personnel. Mr. Arrington did not think so. The only difference between now and when the courts leave is that they will no longer prosecute. He pointed out that it is not how many cases there are in court but when those cases are scheduled that determine the number of prosecutors needed.

Service Director – There is a decrease of (.21%) from 2007 which reflects a reduction in 2008 costs due to the costs incurred from the City hosting “Tree City” in 2007.

Civil Service – There is a decrease of (4.42%) from 2007 due to a decreased estimate in advertising costs.

Engineering – There is an increase of .35% from 2007 due to changes in marital status for hospitalization which resulted in a reduction of charges.

Building – There is an increase of 5.73% from 2007 due to cost of living increases, step increases and the increase in the employer portion of PERS. There is also an increase in contractual services for plan review assistance.

Utility Billing – There is a decrease of (2.74%) from 2007 due to a retirement with a replacement at a lower starting wage and also the plan to not backfill a position. Mrs. Carr stated they have seen an increase in collections since July, 2007. Since that time, they have collected almost \$200,000 of outstanding debt by using collection agencies and also by getting tighter on their own rules. The deposits seem to be working. From July to November, they have 300 more rental accounts which she attributes to possibly either a lot of transition or just a lot of renters. With regard to headcount, Mrs. Carr stated they had a retirement last year and two this year, and they only backfilled one. They are working toward automated meter reading so they want to keep their options open in case they need to move the meter readers around. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if there was something in the budget about the initial outlay for equipment regarding automated meter reading. Mrs. Carr stated not at this point because they were waiting for the analysis.

***Committee recommended holding Temp. Ord. Nos. B-159, B-160 and B-161.***

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

