

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
February 19, 2008

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Debbie Ritzinger
Carol Klinger

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

The minutes from the February 4, 2008 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. A-16

Temp. Ord. A-17

Temp. Ord. A-18

Discussion:

Mr. Walters indicated that A-15 would not be discussed this evening since the settlement for State Road is not quite completed. However, since the newspaper indicated it would be discussed, he wanted to give any residents present an opportunity to speak.

Bill Rhines, 1868 Windsor Street, asked if it was correct that the City will be paying \$10.2 million for the property. Mr. Walters indicated that was what was originally agreed upon, however the settlement agreement has not yet been finalized. Mr. Rhines asked if the City would then sell the property. Mr. Walters stated it would and added there was no reason for the City to keep it. Mr. Rhines indicated he had a concern about that. Three or four years ago, the City purchased the Falls hotel on State Road for \$900,000 and spent another \$100,000 to take it down. It then turned around and sold it to a bank for \$250,000. He was concerned about the City selling this property at another loss. Mr. Walters responded that Council receives numerous complaints about this area. It needs an overhaul and there are several developers interested in purchasing the property from the City. The goal is more than to just break even or make a profit on the sale. We want to generate income tax. Mrs. Truby added that this would be a reinvestment in the community. The former hotel Mr. Rhines referred to was home to prostitution, drugs and rapes. The City wanted to eradicate that altogether so it purchased the property and, even though the property was sold to the bank for less than what the City paid, the bank has brought money to the City. The priority was to eliminate blight in the City. The same will be done with the State Road property and it will be done aggressively. They will do whatever is in the best interests of the City. The City will reap huge benefits from a reinvestment of this property. She offered to speak with Mr. Rhines after the meeting or the next day should he still wish to.

Mr. Walters added that hopefully the agreement would be finalized and the legislation would be discussed on March 3.

Temp. Ord. A-16

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of certain materials, supplies, equipment and services for use by the Electric Department during 2008, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bye stated this is a standard purchase for the year for the majority of their equipment that they use to service customers. It does not include vehicles and they only order what they need, however costs have increased significantly. Items that cost \$32,000 today were \$12,000 in 2005. The reason they want to keep

some things in stock is because delivery on those items takes anywhere from 44 to 52 weeks, but they do not buy a lot since they are limited on storage room.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-16.

Temp. Ord. A-17

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of four (4) helmet-mounted thermal imagers for the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Snyder stated they would like to purchase four more of the 16 oz. units. They have been purchasing these units since 2002. Currently, they have four of the original units which are no longer serviceable. They still have been afforded the discount price of \$8,552 per unit where the current retail is \$13,000. They initially assisted the company in research and development in testing the units back in 2002. Over the years, the resolution has become much clearer. This purchase would bring the number of units in the department to 12 working units. They generally have one having some type of repair. He is hoping the department gets to the point to have three units per team. Right now, they have two on the front line. Mr. Walters stated these are pretty advanced technologically compared to the nine pound battery packs they used to have. Mrs. Klinger asked if they were in color or black-and-white. Chief Snyder indicated that while color is available, they prefer the gray scale. Cuyahoga Falls has more imagers than any other department its size. It now takes 60 seconds vs. 15 minutes in locating fires.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-17.

Temp. Ord. A-18

Authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts for the lease and/or purchase of fifty-two Ricoh printer/copy/fax equipment, and declaring an emergency.

John Konich stated this was a five year contract with Comdoc to replace the printers. The new units have the capability to scan, and they support the HTE software. They are going from 53 units to 52. Originally, there were 100 units so the quantity has come down significantly. Everything is included except the paper. Half of the units are color, and they try to put one color printer in each area. This is a five-year contract at \$110,685 per year. If the units break down, the company just replaces them.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-18.

Mr. Walters asked Mr. Arrington if A-15 would be ready to be discussed on March 3. Mr. Arrington was cautiously optimistic that perhaps it could be discussed at next week's Council meeting with a rule suspension. Mr. Walters stated he would rather not suspend the rules on this item. Mrs. Hummel agreed. Council would need time to read and review the contract. She would not be willing to suspend rules on something of this magnitude.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.