

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
February 4, 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 January 22, 2008 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. A-9

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-9

An ordinance levying special assessments for the Reconstruction of Williams Street from Taylor Avenue to Prospect Street, including but not limited to, driveway aprons, sanitary and storm sewers, water lines, catch basins, paving, restoration and landscaping, together with necessary appurtenances incidental thereto, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brodzinski stated this is the ordinance that the City uses to send out the invoices. Some people will pay now, some will pay if they sell their house, and the rest will be certified to the County to be collected semi-annually over ten years. Mr. Walters asked about projects that fall under Issue 1. Mr. Brodzinski indicated that water and sewer portions can be paid through Issue 1 or Issue 2, however, those amounts are not assessed. Mr. Walters pointed out that there is no mention of availability of help for hardship and asked whether the residents will be informed of that availability when they receive their bill. Mr. Brodzinski stated they do not normally provide a notice but they could put it in there. Mr. Walters added that the residents would most likely inform their council person if they have a hardship issue.

William Smith, 1650 Williams Street, indicated he was concerned because he has had significant pooling of water in his driveway since it was regraded as part this project. There is approximately 5" of water covering two-thirds of his driveway. Mr. Demasi stated this was the first he heard about this and indicated he would meet with Mr. Smith after the meeting or the next day.

Mrs. Pyke stated things were much better for the residents by having the assessments recalculated with the benefit method vs. equalization. The residents were happier with the recalculations.

Mrs. Klinger felt that perhaps the legislation should be held until Mr. Smith's issue was resolved. Mr. Demasi stated he will look into the issue. If it is a storm water issue, they will not be able to get to it until the summer. Whatever they do, it will not affect the cost. Mrs. Klinger wanted to make sure something was in place if work was not completed to the satisfaction of the resident.

Ada Conway, 1725 Williams Street, asked how long residents would have to pay once the letters go out and if there was a benefit to paying it vs. having it certified. Mr. Brodzinski stated residents would have 30 days to pay and the interest would be 5-3/4% per year or the equivalent to fair market value if certified. He stated even if the 30 days pass, the City would still collect payments and would then contact the County to get the amount removed from the duplicate. Mrs. Conway stated she was pleased to see the amount reduced as much as it was from the first calculations.

Mrs. Pyke thanked the residents for their patience during the project. There is a significant difference in the look of the area. It's like a new development.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-9

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.