

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
February 4, 2008

Members: Kathy Hummel, Chair
Don Walters
Ken Barnhart

Mrs. Hummel called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the January 22, 2008 committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Res. A-12

Discussion:

Temp. Res. A-12

A resolution expressing support for Issue 8 in support of the Metro Regional Transit Authority and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Arrington stated this is in support of a tax issue on the March 4 ballot. Louwana Oliva of the Regional Transit Authority, 416 Kenmore Blvd., spoke on behalf of the issue. She stated that Metro faces a \$2 million deficit this year and \$4 million by 2010. Without the passage of this levy, they will be forced to eliminate weekend service as well as 40% of weekday service beginning in April. They would also be faced with eliminating Scat service. The proposed tax would be one-quarter of one percent. Metro has not had any new taxes in more than 17 years and has done everything it could to scale back to try to prevent a new tax. Ms. Oliva explained that Scat, which is utilized by many Falls residents, is a curb-to-curb service that transports a passenger to medical appointments, hair appointments, grocery stores, etc. It runs Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Pyke expressed concerns about how the discontinuation of services would affect the two Sutliff towers in Ward 2, each with 184 units, and added that the residents at Sutliff II have a petition circulating. She asked Ms. Oliva if Route 23 would not be eliminated if the issue passes. Ms. Oliva confirmed it would not be eliminated with passage. Mrs. Pyke asked to be included as a sponsor on the resolution.

Mrs. Colavecchio stated she has attended three Metro events during the last two weeks and commended Ms. Oliva for her hard work to get support on the issue. These services are invaluable to the seniors in the community.

Mr. James asked if employees who have been laid off would be called back with the passage of the issue. Ms. Oliva stated they would try but it would be done gradually. She indicated that the new tax would bring in between \$15 and \$18 million each year. It would depend on the economy. Mrs. Hummel stated that no one likes new taxes but Cuyahoga Falls has a population that does not have another way to get around.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Res. A-8.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.