

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Public Improvements Committee Meeting
March 17, 2003

Members: Mr. Walters, Chair
Mr. Bauer
Mrs. Pyke

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

The minutes of the February 18, 2003 Public Improvements Committee meeting were approved as amended, and the minutes of the March 3, 2003 Public Improvements Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. No. B-35
Temp. Ord. No. B-46
Temp. Ord. No. B-47
Temp. Ord. No. B-48

DISCUSSION

Temp. Ord. No. B-35

Mr. Walters read B-35. Mrs. Carr stated the City has been working towards a potential landfill gas project. The City would purchase the gas product and turn it into energy at Hardy Road. She suggested that Council hold B-35 in Committee until they can blend the two projects together to bring a green energy program. Mark Gerkin from Amp-Ohio stated they have been looking at sources for renewable energy. They looked at wind which is 100% green. Methane gas is not as clean so it is not as green. They want to be able to offer both. He feels they will have a contract within the next two weeks with a third party source for marketing in order to move the project forward. Mr. Walters asked about the cost of green power being more in the long run. Mr. Gerkin stated that overall, the effective cost of the landfill will be a little less than the wind turbine. He stated that with the wind, they can get \$32 on the Tag since tags are more valuable on wind.

Mr. Walters asked about the eight communities who were interested in the wind project. Mr. Gerkin indicated that was not a complete list. He stated Cuyahoga Falls could own only one tower and pointed out that the City should look at who is getting into the joint venture because it would affect the potential Tag (\$23 - \$32).

Mr. Gorbach asked what the homeowner will be getting in terms of information from Green Mountain Energy. Mr. Gerkin stated they will put together a mass mailing to send to City customers. Mr. Gorbach asked what kind of information would be contained in the mailing. Mr. Gerkin stated it would be informational and indicated they may want to do kick off meetings and perhaps a presentation to Council. Mrs. Carr stated that Amp-Ohio was good about working through the City. People have come to her suggesting they check into alternative power so they feel that the customers will pay for it. Mr. Gerkin also indicated that they are not looking at wind as a base load resource. It is just something to put into the City's portfolio to build it up. Mr. Walters asked how many turbines the methane would run. Mr. Gerkin answered it would depend on the unit's size.

Mr. Gorbach stated that at some point, someone is going to solicit City residents to see if they are interested in green energy and it will include prices. He wondered if the residents would have to sign up for a certain period of time or if they would have the ability to jump in or out as they decide. He asked when the initial contact is made, what would be the question the customer would have to answer indicating his/her interest. Mr. Gerkin could not answer that since they do not yet have an official contract with a third party. When they have the contract, he offered to have Cuyahoga Falls be the first community they present it to. Mrs. Carr stated the initial information would probably go out in July. Mr. Gerkin pointed out that people who own gas rights are going to leverage prices as high as they can.

Mrs. Hummel stated the presentation a couple of weeks ago indicated that wind power would be comparable to the price we are paying now. Mr. Gerkin stated it is comparable if it is put in a resource plan. Mr. Bye stated that the estimate of purchasing 7.2 MW is a small portion of the City's portfolio. Mrs. Hummel asked if the comments two weeks ago were based on a joint venture. Mr. Bye stated they were. Mr. Gerkin stated there were plusses and minuses to having a two-member joint venture. Mrs. Hummel confirmed that the two projects will go together and that Administration was not asking to proceed at this point with the wind turbine project. Mrs. Carr indicated she has always been cautious about new projects. The City has a good system and its finances are good so they can handle the project. She would like this held until they are ready to come back with a full package. Bowling Green is still going to work toward this. We were just trying to be a good member to get the project going faster. She stated it will still be a good project six months or two months from now.

Mayor Robart stated this represents a small piece of the City's needs. It is a new frontier so we do not want to obligate ourselves until we feel comfortable. He pointed out that wind energy is very common in Europe.

Committee recommended holding B-35.

Temp. Ord. No. B-46

Mr. Walters read B-46 (second reading). Mr. Arrington stated this was the next step in the assessment process for the 23rd Street project. The exhibit is the same sheet that was attached to the Equalization Board report. The amount to be assessed is in the Adjustment column. Mr. Potts stated he has a resident who wants to apply for hardship and asked what the process was. Mr. Arrington stated that once the ordinance is passed, the individual needs to file her request for hardship with the Council Clerk c/o of the Law Department. Council President will then appoint a committee who will discuss the hardships and report back to Council.

Committee recommended bringing out B-46.

Temp. Ord. No. B-47

Mr. Walters read B-47 (second reading). Mr. Bell stated that last year they had a contract to repair the North, South and Front Street parking decks. They ran out of weather and were not able to put coating on the deck. This will allow the City to go back to the contractor to finish the remainder of the repairs. The contractor is holding to the original prices. He stated that once they began the repairs last year, there was more area involved than they had anticipated. Mr. Walters asked about the warranty on expansion joints. Mr. Bell stated they have a minimum of one year but he will check to see if it is longer. They will start sounding the deck at the end of the month but he needs to coordinate it with Community Development. There is one expansion joint, sealing and repair concrete work to be done. Mr. Walters pointed out that there will be more handicap spaces which will have better access to the mall.

Mr. Nelsch of North Haven Blvd. asked about the status of the sign. Mrs. Truby stated they are waiting to hear from Mrs. Pierce.

Committee recommended bringing out B-47.

Temp. Ord. No. B-48

Mr. Walters read B-48 (second reading). John Christopher stated this related to the ordinance passed in 2001 to extend water service. The tap-in fee was \$3,759.07 and there were two taps made off that line. There will be a 50% premiums charge on the water rate. This location is approximately 516 feet past the animal shelter. Mrs. Carr stated the property is actually owned by the Park Service. They need water because they are putting in a building.

Committee recommended bringing out B-48.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.