

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

May 17, 2021

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Mary Nichols-Rhodes
Jeff Iula

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the May 3, 2021, Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-31

Temp. Ord. B-32

Temp. Ord. B-33

Temp. Ord. B-34

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-31

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Subaward Grant Agreement with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research for the Comprehensive Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Program in an amount not to exceed \$99,774 for the purchase of drug disposal bags and to make the necessary appropriations for the same, and declaring an emergency.

Police Chief Davis presented Temporary Ordinance B-31 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls Police Department applied for a subaward grant through the Institute for Intergovernmental Research for the acquisition of drug disposal bags on behalf of the Summit County Community Partnership. On April 1, 2021, the subaward grant was awarded to the City of Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, in an amount not to exceed \$99,774, to be used for the purchase of drug disposal bags and other associated costs of the project. It is necessary to increase appropriations in the General Fund, Police, line item Other Operations by \$99,774. The Mayor will be authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research to be used for the purchase of drug disposal bags on behalf of the Summit County partnership and other associated costs with administering the Comprehensive Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Program. The Finance Director will be authorized and directed to increase appropriations in the General Fund, Police, line item Other Operations by \$99,774 and make payment from the same. The Mayor, Director of Finance, Chief of Police, Director of Law, and any other public officials, individually or collectively as may be appropriate, will be authorized to prepare and execute such other documents and do all other things as necessary or incidental to carrying out the intent and/or requirements of the Comprehensive Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Program and this ordinance.

Mr. Darryl Brake, Executive Director of Summit County Community Partnership, thanked Chief Davis and the Cuyahoga Falls Police for the partnership they have had during the process. This

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is a program that Community Partnership has operated successfully for approximately five years. Last year, they distributed 23,000 pouches. This new grant will allow them to double their footprint in Summit County, allowing for drug disposal of medicine by residents. Better than 70 percent of those suffering with substance abuse disorders oftentimes get their pills from family and friends. Their project is educating the community about safe storage of medication, so that they are not stolen or diverted and, also, that those that are outdated or no longer needed are disposed of in an environmentally-safe way and, in the process, keeping them out of harm's way. There are only six communities in the nation that were awarded this grant, and they were one of them, so it is an honor for the County and the community. They were able to convince those on a national landscape of the work they did in the past and that they are capable of doing that. The awarding of this grant shows they put trust in them that they would continue to do the same.

Mr. Gorbach asked what the mechanism is for the distribution of those bags. Mr. Brake stated that they have over 90 distribution partners around the county. It has a post card on the back with a place with a zip code. They follow the county reporting on overdoes, and they distribute more pouches in those areas by zip code. They have over 150 distribution sites, but this grant will allow them to do more and bring on more partners.

Mr. Gorbach asked if this a grant and the City is a pass-through on this money. Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that this money is passed through, so this is a grant.

Mr. Balthis stated that this program is important, and he is grateful for all the work Mr. Brake's organization, the Police Department and Mayor Walters has done. Cuyahoga Falls has been a leader in fighting the opioid epidemic, and he is proud to see that continuing to be the case. He asked what places these bags are available in Cuyahoga Falls. Chief Davis stated that the Police Department and NECCO has them. They hand them out at a lot of events. The pharmacies at Acme also carry them.

Mrs. Spinner asked how those bags are disposed of once someone has used it. Mr. Brake stated that the bag is coated with a substance, so when it goes into a landfill, it naturally decomposes along with the contents. The directions are on the packet. The top is torn off, put in up to 45 pills, six ounces of liquid medicine or six medicine patches, fill it halfway with water, hold it for 30 seconds zip it and throw it in the trash and it will decompose in the landfill. Western Reserve Hospital is also one of their distributors. They are educating those that are in the hospital and leaving with medications on how to dispose of their medicines. They are also working with them to get them into doctors' offices. This will allow them to do a lot more blanketing of the community and making people aware of the pouches, how to use them and getting those medicines off the street.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-31 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

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Temp. Ord. B-32

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor or his designee to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc. for various vehicle repairs, supplies and equipment used by the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Martin presented Temporary Ordinance B-32 to Council. Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc. has specialized knowledge and expertise in servicing Fire Department vehicles. The City has contracted with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc. for repair services to various Fire Department vehicles throughout the year. Although no specific expenditure for these vehicle repairs has individually exceeded the threshold competitive bidding amount to date, collectively these expenditures may soon exceed the competitive bidding amount of \$50,000. Due to the high quality of repairs and competitive pricing for equipment and supplies, the City desires to continue using Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc. to service various Fire Department vehicles throughout the year and to provide necessary equipment and supplies. The Mayor will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc. for various vehicle repairs, equipment and supplies used by the Fire Department in a total amount not to exceed \$70,000 for the 2021 fiscal year. The Director of Finance will be hereby authorized and directed to make payment for same from the General Fund, Fire Department, line item Other Operations.

Assistant Chief Martin stated that the Fire Department uses Atlantic for its fleet maintenance, especially the larger apparatus. They have crossed the threshold with the rising costs in parts and labor, and are required to come before Council.

Mr. Gorbach asked if they have crossed the threshold with respect to the Board of Control, but that there are budgeted monies. Assistant Chief Martin stated that is correct. With a single vendor, they have to take this action because Atlantic does so much work for them.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-32 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-33

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts without competitive bidding with AT&T Corp. for the procurement of Public Safety Answering Points and related equipment and software, and declaring an emergency.

Police Chief Davis presented Temporary Ordinance B-33 to Council. AT&T Corp. is the sole source purveyor of proprietary phone lines used for public safety dispatch in the City. The Mayor will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts without competitive bidding with AT&T Corp. for the lease of Public Safety Answering Points and related equipment and software, for a period of three years, with the option to extend the agreement for two 1-year successive terms.

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The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the General Fund, Communications Department, line item Other Operations.

Chief Davis stated that this is for replacement of their phone systems for Communications Dispatch. It was purchased in 2008 when Fire Station 5 was upgraded, and it has outlived its expectancy and needs to be replaced. They went through the different vendors and found this to be the best solution for them.

Mr. Gorbach asked if this is just for Fire Station 5. Chief Davis stated that this is the phone network for the Communications Division. It is for the dispatch center in Fire Station 5. Mr. Gorbach asked if this is approved, when will they make the transfer from the old to the new. Chief Davis stated it would take a little while, but they need to get the ball rolling. Everything is in place. They have met with them, and they have a solution, so it is a matter of scheduling it and getting it in place.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-33 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-34

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Law to enter into a settlement agreement in the case of B.W. et al. v. City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

The Director of Law will be authorized to execute a settlement agreement in the case of B.W., et al. v. City of Cuyahoga Falls, Summit County Court of Common Pleas Case No. CV17 2020-03-1143, on the basis of the proposal negotiated and presented to City Council on May 10, 2021. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Leisure Time Fund, line item Other Operations. The Director of Law, or her designee, will be authorized to execute and file such pleadings and documents with the court or other agencies, including, without limitation, a stipulated judgment entry and any other pleadings necessary to effectuate the intent of the parties as set forth in the proposed settlement agreement.

Mr. Gorbach stated that Council discussed this in executive session. He asked Ms. Ciotola if there were any additional comments from the Law Department. Ms. Ciotola stated that there were no further comments.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-34 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Mayor Walters stated that he would like to speak briefly on the COVID update. The virtual meetings are set to expire on July 1st of this year; however, he is planning on opening City Hall on June 2nd, which is when all the orders expire. Council is a self-governing body. No one can tell Council what to do with their meetings. The State says on June 1st, they have to go live. He

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plans on opening City Hall on June 2nd. The experts are telling them that everything is lifted, so, therefore, they are going to operate as normal.

Mr. Gorbach stated that maybe Council can set a time to meet in person at a later date to discuss that.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.