

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Meeting
May 21, 2007

Members: Debbie Ritzinger, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Doug Flinn

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Held:

None

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-74
Temp. Ord. B-75

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-74

An ordinance authorizing a boundary adjustment with the City of Akron and declaring an emergency.

[See discussion of substitute B-65 from the May 14, 2007 Finance Committee meeting.]

Mrs. Ritzinger asked if there were any other questions regarding B-74.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-74 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-75

An ordinance amending the traffic control file by providing for installation of various traffic control devices, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated they were asked to look at the stop signs at the Natatorium near Third Street within the parking lot and exiting the parking lot. They had a consultant look at the area and it was decided it would be best to remove the stop sign located in the parking lot for the east and west-bound traffic. They are placing a the eastbound with a yield sign. The westbound will not have a stop sign. The other area was on State Road near the post office. There is currently a double left turn lane. They are going to install a dedicated left-turn lane.

Mr. Walters asked if the island was needed at the Nat. He wondered if there were a lot of accidents there. Mr. Demasi said there have been several close calls.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-75 for approval.

Mrs. Ritzinger stated that Mr. Sucato, the owner of a Cuyahoga Falls business called Steamatic, was present and wished to address Council. Mr. Sucato stated he employs 35 employees at his company, which has been growing at 40% a year. They do construction, restoration and emergency cleaning. In

Summit County, there are three companies that are “preferred” by insurance industry standards. His company is preferred with All State, Nationwide, Liberty, Frankenmuth and Grange which shows they have proven themselves in the marketplace. He met with the Mayor a couple months ago to ask that the City consider his company when placing calls for clean-up service. Currently, the City uses Belfor almost exclusively. The Mayor indicated in a letter that the City would use Steamatic in a rotation with Belfor, however, Mr. Sucato stated while they did receive a couple of calls, they have not been put into the rotation. He was asking Council for help or advice on how to get called on a regular basis for work within the City. There are only two companies in the City who do this type of work—Steamatic and Belfor.

Mrs. Colavecchio pointed out that the Mayor’s letter was dated March 7 and since it appeared that the list prepared by Mr. Cooper was done on March 9 perhaps the information in the letter did not make it to the call list.

Mr. Gorbach asked the Mayor what the City’s call-out procedure was. Mayor Robart stated Belfor made a \$1 million investment in the City so that is why he decided to use them. Steamatic also made an investment so he issued an edict that they be part of the rotation. This is the first time he has heard that they are not part of the rotation. The bottom line, however, is they like Belfor’s work. They also have been doing a lot of board-ups free of charge. He would not rule out the possibility of changing the rotation but right now, they are happy with Belfor. Mr. Gorbach suggested that perhaps rather than contacting Belfor first every time, that maybe they can be contacted first every other time with Steamatic getting the other calls. That way, the City can have the chance to become more comfortable with Steamatic’s work. Mrs. Ritzinger also pointed out that Council doesn’t know how many calls have come in and it may be that the two calls that Steamatic received are not that far out of line.

Mrs. Hummel asked if residents were made aware that there was more than just one company that could be called for clean-up. Mayor Robart stated that when residents are victims of a house fire, they are overwhelmed and are not always able to make decisions. They depend on the City to help them in those situations. Mrs. Hummel stated she understood that but in cases where there was a break-in or vandalism, a resident could be made aware that they have a choice between two Cuyahoga Falls companies to do the work.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.