

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Community Development Committee Meeting
May 5, 2008

Members: Mark Ihasz, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Ihasz called the meeting to order at 9:10 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. A-57

Temp. Ord. A-58

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-57

An ordinance approving the fiscal year 2008 CDBG Annual Action Plan, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated in 2004, they put together a consolidated five-year plan. Every year they need to come back to Council with an annual action plan. They are required to spend all of the money in its entirety and on time or it could jeopardize future funding. They are allowed to have three changes per year on an annual action plan. The most the City has had is two.

Mr. Ihasz asked if Mrs. Truby had the breakdown on income per family. She did not but stated it followed the federal guidelines. Mr. Ihasz asked whether the \$180,000 for housing rehabilitation was due to the Heslop Program. Mrs. Truby stated it was. She added that they had 40 inquiries of people interested. There were eight to ten projects done last year. He asked how many residents applied for the paint program. Mrs. Truby stated that 15 applied and there were 11 completed. She added that there is a steady decline.

Mrs. Pyke asked when the next five year plan is drafted whether Americhem would be finished. Mrs. Truby stated it may. Mrs. Pyke asked if the City has looked at money for Main Street south of Broad Blvd. Mrs. Truby stated they have talked about it. They are to get with Schwebel's soon to talk about future plans. Mrs. Pyke commented there are a lot of foreclosed vacant homes in the City and wondered if any of the money could be used to help with those. Mrs. Truby stated that the CDBG website offers suggestions on foreclosed homes. They are trying to see if the City can give money to offer support. Mrs. Pyke stated she is concerned about the ones sitting vacant to keep them up so no one can tell that they are vacant. Mr. Guerra stated the money could be spent two ways: (1) if there is a low income person living there; or (2) when the house is empty, if it is a blighted condition.

Mrs. Hummel asked if next year would be a new consolidated plan larger than this one. Mrs. Truby stated it is. It will also have the same timeframe in that it will be due to HUD in May, 2009.

Mrs. Pyke asked if a house in blighted condition would have to be within one of the districts to qualify for grant money. Mrs. Truby stated it would not. There could be spot slum and blight.

Mrs. Klinger asked if the money in the paint program could be used to paint aluminum siding. Mrs. Truby stated she didn't see why not. Mrs. Klinger wondered if the residents were aware of the paint program.

Mrs. Klinger felt that the Newberry area should be a higher priority than the area between Sacket and Falls. She asked when the City would be having meetings regarding the next five-year timeline. Mrs. Truby stated

they are just now having talks about how and where to do this. It will probably be early fall. Mrs. Klinger felt the meetings should start in early summer. She would also prefer to have more input from faith based organizations. They know more of what is going on in their neighborhoods.

Mr. Walters asked if the City had a CDGB Administrator. Mrs. Truby stated they are in the interview process and are working through it now.

Mr. Ihasz stated he hoped the City gets the public involved in next year's planning. The City received some great ideas last time.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-57

Temp. Ord. A-58

An ordinance authorizing the City of Cuyahoga Falls to file an application to the State of Ohio, Department of Development, to support an application for assistance under the Ohio Job Ready Sites Program and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated that two weeks ago, there was a joint press conference with Stow and Hudson to attract a major hospital to the corridor. They need to submit an application to the Job Ready Sites Program. All three communities are submitting legislation. Stow has already passed its legislation and Hudson expects to pass it this week. The application is due May 15 and in July, all three cities will give a presentation in Columbus. We should know in September or October whether we are successful.

Mr. Ihasz asked what would happen to Falls General. Mrs. Truby stated Fall General would continue to operate in some form. Mr. Ihasz asked when we would break ground should we get the grant. Mrs. Truby stated it would be in Spring, 2009.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-58

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.