

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

June 7, 2021

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

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the May 17, 2021, Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-24

Temp. Ord. B-35

Temp. Ord. B-36

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-24

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor or his designee to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Rail Development Commission and CSX Transportation for grade crossing warning device improvements and implementation of a 4 quadrant light and gate system quiet zone at the Bailey Road/CSX railroad crossing, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-24 to Council. The Ohio Rail Development Commission and CSX Transportation (CSX) have identified the need for grade crossing warning device upgrades at the Bailey Road/CSX railroad crossing. The City has requested the implementation of a 4-quadrant light and gate system quiet zone be implemented at this grade crossing. The City has agreed to fund 36% of the preliminary engineering and construction costs of these upgrades, which represents the difference between the warning device upgrades and the quiet zone implementation. The Mayor or his designee will be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Rail Development Commission and CSX Transportation (CSX) for the grade crossing warning device improvements and implementation of a 4-quadrant light and gate system quiet zone at the Bailey Road/CSX railroad crossing. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund, line item Capital Outlay.

Mr. James stated that he has been looking forward to this for a long time. A lot of his ward abuts the railroad tracks; River Estates, all the way up and down Munroe Falls Avenue and some folks on Front and Second. It is nice to know that it is going to be quiet, and people will have uninterrupted sleep at night with no more dogs barking because the train is coming. This is going to make a lot of people happy that this is coming to fruition.

Mr. Balthis stated that, living in the downtown area, he has benefited from the quiet zone that was put in place on Broad Boulevard. He has definitely noticed a difference not hearing the horn. He is excited and happy for the people in River Estates.

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Mayor Walters stated that they do not want to overlook the safety aspect of this. Research has determined one of the most dangerous occurrences at railroad crossings are cars driving around the gate when gates malfunction. The quad gates are impervious, so the safety aspect is even better than the quiet zone. The quiet zone is a byproduct of this.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-24 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-35

An ordinance appropriating Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 funds, in the amount of \$233,720 for the Community Development Block Grant fund, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Peggy Szalay, CDBG Entitlement Administrator, presented Temporary Ordinance B-35 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has been awarded a third round of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COVID-19 funds to facilitate programs that will help ease the economic burden of low-to-moderate income individuals within the City. It is necessary to appropriate the aforementioned funds in the amount of \$233,720 in the CDBG Fund in order for the Department of Community Development to fund projects and meet timeliness with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Director of Finance will be authorized to increase appropriations in the Community Development Block Grant Fund, Line Item Other Operations by \$233,720 and make payment from the same.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-35 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-36

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to execute a modification of Contract No. 8266 with Perrin Asphalt Company for the annual resurfacing and/or repair of various streets, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi presented Temporary Ordinance B-36 to Council. Under the authority of Ordinance 10-2021 the City, after competitive bidding, entered into Contract No. 8266 with Perrin Asphalt Company, for the annual resurfacing and/or repair of various streets. It is necessary to make additional repairs to various streets. The Director of Public Service is hereby authorized to execute a modification of Contract No. 8266 with Perrin Asphalt Company authorizing repairs to various streets in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 from the Capital Projects Fund, Line Item 27 Capital Outlay.

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Mr. Iula stated that he is happy to see they will be repaving Meadow Lane, the street that he grew up on. He stated that he would like to compliment Perrin Asphalt on the great job they did paving Derby Downs.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-36 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.