

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
July 16, 2007

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Carol Klinger

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. All members were present.

Mr. Gorbach recognized Ms. McCleary who was before Council to speak on the AMP-Ohio Lyle B. Wright Scholarship. Ms. McCleary stated the purpose of the award was to further education and create awareness of careers in the municipal field. Criteria that must be met include (a) the applicant must be a student whose household receives electricity from an AMP-Ohio member community; and (b) he/she must be a high school senior with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The winner is determined based on his/her preparation of an essay on public power, personal interviews, personal achievement through school/community activities, knowledge of public power based on a written test, and his/her scholastic record. Ms. McCleary then introduced Julia Blankenship, the Director of Green Energy Development at AMP-Ohio, to present this year's award to Andrew Patterson. Ms. Blankenship stated that Andrew was 1 of 29 applicants and carried a GPA of 4.0 from CVCA. He will be studying pre-med at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. He is an avid soccer and baseball player and plans to be a pediatrician. She presented Andrew with a Certificate of Achievement and a check for \$1,500.

Mr. Gorbach congratulated Mr. Patterson and stated it seemed he was on his way to continue doing great things.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-95
Temp. Ord. B-96
Temp. Ord. B-97
Temp. Ord. B-98
Temp. Ord. B-99
Temp. Ord. B-100

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-95

An ordinance increasing appropriations in the general fund, mall operations, line item other operations, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated this was the third year the City has received a \$25,000 donation from IBEW who is a major sponsor for the ice rink. IBEW has also become the stage sponsor for the rest of this year as well as continuing with the rink. This legislation will allow her to increase the appropriations.

Mr. Gorbach stated the City has been lucky to receive the donations and that this benefits the whole community. He pointed out a typo to Administration on line 27. "for the" should be "and/or". Mr. Arrington stated he would change that.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-95 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-96

An ordinance authorizing an amendment to Ordinance No. 81-2004 to allow for a transfer in CDBG funds and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated that they have two infrastructure projects: One is the Main Street Project which is \$100,000 under budget, and the other is the Wyoga Lake Trail Project which is \$100,000 over budget. The reason is due to the timing of the bidding of the projects. Main Street was bid in January, while the trail was bid in early summer. They need to relocate utility poles. Federal guidelines require doing an amendment in order to switch the money from one project to another.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-96 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-97

An ordinance amending Section 181.02 and enacting Section 181.021 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Arrington stated that when the City does a bid contract, it advertises and receives bids. It then selects the lowest and best bid. With enhanced technology, the Ohio Revised Code now allows for reverse auction bidding. Bidders submit everything except a price, the City would review all of them, and those who the City determines meet the specs proceed to bid in a reverse auction on the internet. They log-in and start bidding. There is a set time for the bidding and if any bid comes in during the final three minutes, an additional three minutes is tacked on. They have met with the company that administers these programs in other cities. It is a way to insure the City gets the lowest bid. The more complex projects, however, will continue to follow the normal route. For purposes of the legislation, Mr. Arrington stated he took Section 181.02 and changed the title so it will only apply to sealed bids. He then added Section 181.021 to allow for internet auction. Administration would like to give this a try with a project coming up. He added there is no downside whatsoever. If the internet bidding falls apart, the City can do it the conventional way.

Mr. Gorbach asked what would happen if the bidding was over and bids were received but none met the specs. Mr. Arrington stated the City always reserves the right to reject all bids regardless of the reason. He added that when a contractor bids on line, all he knows is his ranking in relation to other bidders. If he really wants the job, he will keep dropping his price until he is #1.

Mr. Barnhart asked if the specs could be changed once the bidding began. Mr. Arrington stated the City can make changes to the specs during the bidding process but it would be with the knowledge of all bidders. Bidders can make suggestions but they cannot change the specs. That insures that everyone is bidding on the same thing.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-97 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-98

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts for 23kV system improvements construction, which consists of reconditioning two existing circuits (Valley to Substation #6 and Valley to Substation #4) and one additional circuit for future express (Valley to Substation #5), and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bye stated this allows them to award a contract. The bids were opened on June 27 and they have three bidders out of six. This is to upgrade the size of the wire on two existing circuits and a new one under Portage Trail. It is cost effective to do it while they are already doing another.

Mr. Gorbach asked if Mr. Bye knew when they would start. Mr. Bye stated he would like to award the contract immediately to allow the contractor to get materials. He believes it should be completed late

October or early November and should take 45 days for each line depending on the weather. Mr. Gorbach added that the item was budgeted.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-98 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-99

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for construction and installation of gateway signage for the City, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated that during budget presentations, they talked about putting \$53,500 in the capital budget to replace the 'Welcome to the City' signage. The current signs are made of wood and are deteriorating. They distributed sign specs for new signs and added stone columns. There are ten locations for the large sign and several for the smaller ones. RFPs were mailed in May with a cut-off of June 15. Eight companies responded, none of which were located within the City. They plan to replace half this year and will put the remainder in the 2008 capital budget.

Mr. Gorbach agreed that the signs needed to be replaced. He asked if there would be some signage with respect to civic clubs, such as the Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions Clubs, and asked whether the City sponsored the payment or if it was paid by the groups. Mrs. Truby stated when they did the Front Street Project, organizations contacted the City. They paid for their own logo but the City paid for the signage. That was not included in this bid package but she will make sure they include it in the next one.

Mr. Walters asked about visibility with respect to the signs that were four to five feet wide. Mrs. Truby stated that would be double-checked.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-99 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-100

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts for the purchase of hardware to support dispatching services at Fire Station #5, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Konich stated this was for the purchase of hardware. The software is not yet completed but should be finalized this week. This is the hardware that is going to support the Computer Aided Dispatch software. They will be replacing the current software, which is through New World , with software from TAC.

Mr. Gorbach asked if there was an update with regard to the new dispatch center. Mr. Konich stated they met with all vendors and everything is in motion. He is making sure that everything continues to move forward to try to be on target to be up and running by the end of the year, but it may end up get pushed to February. They have been talking to Mogadore and Munroe Falls, who are waiting to see what numbers the COG comes up with so that they can compare and make a decision.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-100 for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.