

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Meeting
July 16, 2007

Members: Debbie Ritzinger, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Doug Flinn

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Held:

None

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-103
Temp. Ord. B-104
Temp. Res. B-105

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-103

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, to allow Branded Realty Company, LLC access to the City's rights of way, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Arrington stated it is not unusual for the City to grant a license to companies to place signs in the right-of-way. Dunkin Donuts is going in place of Pizza Hut on Graham Road and this is for their sign

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-103 for approval.

Temp. Ord. B-104

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

Mr. Brodzinski stated that Chief Conley was out of town but wanted to advise concerned citizens that the first item in this legislation, which addresses the installation of a 4-way stop sign at Sixth Street and Falls Avenue, is not intended to replace a school crossing guard. Concerned citizens can speak with Chief Conley about the issue.

Capt. Davis discussed the four traffic control issues addressed in the legislation. With regard to the first issue, Capt. Davis indicated that a traffic survey was completed and it was decided that a 4-way stop sign would increase the safety at that intersection because of the jog in the road. It had nothing to do with replacing the school crossing guard. Mrs. Ritzinger stated that there have only been two accidents at that intersection from January, 2004 to the present. Mrs. Pyke stated she was unaware of any accident problems and wondered why a sign needed to be placed there. Capt. Davis stated it was the recommendation of TraffPro. Mrs. Pyke asked to see that recommendation. She questioned whether TraffPro was requested to study the functionality of crossing guards in addition to studying the flow of

traffic. Capt. Davis answered he did not know what was stated at meetings prior to the recommendation going out.

Steve Nome, 1928 Sixth Street, stated he never knew there to be a problem at that intersection. He has not yet heard any justification of why TraffPro believes a stop sign is necessary there. There are no accident problems nor are there any speeding issues. It seems unnecessary to him.

Mrs. Hummel stated she has looked at the letter from TraffPro and the first sentence states “[w]e have completed an analysis at the above-noted school crossings to determine the viability of eliminating the crossing guards at these locations.” Based on this, it was her suggestion that the first item be deleted and Council pass the legislation with regard to the other three items. She advised that everyone on Council needed to see a copy of the letter before they vote on that issue. Mrs. Pyke stated she was reluctant to pass something like this right before school starts.

Mayor Robart stated he agreed with Mrs. Hummel and Mrs. Pyke. The case has not been made to put up a 4-way stop. There is a lot of confusion on the issue. He recommended deleting that from the legislation. Mr. Arrington stated he will prepare substitute legislation.

Mrs. Ritzinger stated that a substitute will be prepared and a copy of the TraffPro study distributed to Council.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-104 for approval.

Temp. Res. B-105

A resolution authorizing the City of Cuyahoga Falls to file an application to the United States Department of Justice, to participate in the Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant Fund and declaring an emergency.

Capt. Pozza stated the Justice Department has given the City an opportunity to apply for \$10,753 in federal funds. It is a nonmatching grant similar to the taser grant a couple of years ago. The one stipulation is it must be presented to Council. The Police Department intends to purchase a mobile vision camera, which would be placed in the new stealth car, and six new rifles for the swat teams that they were going to purchase anyway. The rifles are AR-15s and they will trade in three older ones and purchase six new.

With regard to the stealth car, Capt. Pozza stated it is used for traffic control. It is important for the car to have a camera due to the number of stops. It is the newest system and will cost approximately \$6,000. It records on a memory card that is 4 to 6 GB in size vs. recording to a tape.

Mr. Gorbach asked when they would hear whether the grant was approved. Capt. Pozza stated he responded to the Bureau with a statement that the legislation was being presented to Council this evening and the grant will be approved or disapproved within 30 days.

The Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-105 for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.