

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
July 21, 2008

Members: Kathy Hummel, Chair
Vince Rubino
Ken Barnhart

Mrs. Hummel called the meeting to order at 9:20 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the June 16, 2008 and July 7, 2008 committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. A-82

Temp. Ord. A-83

Temp. Ord. A-84

Discussion:

Mrs. Hummel indicated that Temp. Ord. A-74 regarding drug labs was still on hold. Standards for meth clean-up are basically left to what the contractors are able to clean. Health-driven standards are lacking. She recommended that Council review the information provided by Ms. Jones and indicated the legislation will be revisited again when Council comes back in September.

Temp. Ord. A-82

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the demolition and removal of demolition debris from dangerous buildings located at 2333 Suncrest Drive and certifying the cost thereof to the County Fiscal Officer for collection in the manner provided by law and declaring an emergency.

Kathy Richards was present in place of Peter Bell, who was out of town. Ms. Richards stated that based on the condition of the house and the fact that Countrywide, who is the mortgage holder, has not submitted plans, the City is recommending demolition. Mrs. Hummel confirmed that Countrywide was given notification and that the City had proof that Countrywide was served with notice that the property was up for demolition. Ms. Richards agreed and added that Countrywide has appealed that decision. The City gave them 30 days to clean up the property and the house and they have not done that. Mrs. Hummel asked if the time has expired on the notice of demolition. Mr. Arrington stated that the Board of Building Appeals held a hearing but has not yet issued its answer. The City is doing this to get Countrywide's attention, as well as to establish the City's right to demolish the property if Countrywide will not get it handled. He added that Countrywide can still appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

Mrs. Hummel asked if the property was vacant. Ms. Richards indicated it was and added it was discovered by the housing inspector on April 23. Mrs. Pyke asked how City officials were able to get inside a vacant house. Ms. Richards stated she, Charles, Peter Bell, and a police officer went in with a warrant. Mrs. Pyke asked if the house had a history of complaints. Mr. Demasi indicated the initial complaint was of litter and then City officials observed many other code violations. Mrs. Pyke asked what excuse was used to get a warrant. Mr. Arrington did not know but whatever it was, it was satisfactory with the judge. Mrs. Pyke stated she was going to be in contact regarding the vacant house in her Ward.

Mr. James stated this house was a few blocks from his house and that he was alerted by residents in April that there was a problem. There was a lot of litter and the grass was high. Notices were posted but they went ignored. He stated one of the findings by City officials was that the basement walls were beginning to collapse and he asked what would cause that. Mr. Demasi stated the grade was sloping toward the house and water was accumulating against the wall causing structural damage. Ms. Richards read a description of other violations City officials discovered. Mrs. Hummel commented that the description sounded horrible but based on how long it took to get the house on Sixth Street and Falls Avenue, she did not want there to be a legal problem with the Suncrest property by this process going too quickly. Mr. Arrington stated that Council's recess is coming up in August so Administration wanted to get everything in place if the mortgage company does not appeal. The City does not want to rush into things either and added that the mortgage company has a right to appeal to the Common Pleas Court if it wants to.

Mrs. Hummel stated she is willing to bring this out based on Mr. Arrington's comment and asked that he keep Council informed if there is any action taken by either the mortgage company or the City.

Mr. Barnhart asked if all costs incurred by the City would be passed on to the property owner. Mr. Arrington indicated they would.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-82.

Temp. Ord. A-83

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

Mr. Demasi stated this was similar to one of the items on the previous traffic committee. This was brought up by Mrs. Pyke. It will prohibit parking on 8th Street, 65 feet North of Sackett. The problem in the past has been if a vehicle is parked in the northbound lane of 8th Street and a southbound vehicle is stopped at the stop sign, there is no room for the turning vehicle to continue. Mrs. Pyke stated that 8th Street allows parking on both sides of the street and when the residents were given the choice of losing parking on one side or removing only 65 feet of parking, they overwhelmingly chose removing the 65 feet.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-83.

Temp. Ord. A-84

An ordinance amending Ordinance 107-2007 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bye stated that Ordinance 107 was regarding the purchase of power by the City of 52,000 kw. The project started as a 500 – 600 mw project and is now a 1,000 mw project. Everything is going fine, however, there may be a block of capacity coming available which will be on a first-come basis. An additional 15,000 kw would be enough to lock the City into a low \$.05 rate.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. A-84.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.