

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

February 10, 2004

Members: Mr. Flinn, Chairman; Mr. Barnhart, Vice Chair; Mr. Gorbach, Member.

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:41 p.m. All members of Committee were present.

Two pieces of Legislation this evening (second readings):

A-33 An Ordinance extending military service benefits to city employees on active duty during the Iraq conflict and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brodzinski indicates this section of the code has been in place for a long time, but we haven't experienced this length of time in war like we are getting to with the Iraq conflict. This will allow us to continue to supplement city employee's pay to their military pay while on active duty in Iraq. This is for the Iraq conflict only at this point. Mr. Gorbach confirms that this ordinance extends other benefits along with pay to the individuals and their families such as health, dental, etc. Mary Ellen Pyke questions the length of the extension and confirms that last year we only extended it for a year. Mr. Potts questions the time period of when the employee returns from duty vs. when they must return to work and the employees do have 90 days to return to their employment. Tom Sullivan, 447 Tallmadge Road, asks why the ordinance doesn't include other conflicts such as Kosovo and Afghanistan. Mr. Brodzinski indicates that we do not have any city employees in other conflicts, and new ordinances would be introduced if need be.

The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. A-33

A-40 An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to provide free road salt to Cuyahoga Falls residents and declaring an emergency.

Mayor Robart indicates there were issues in Springfield Township where police and video surveillance cameras were brought in to protect their road salt. There are three reasons that I feel this would benefit the residents. First, the City is in good shape with its quantity of road salt for the winter season. Second, the retail stores in our area do not have the product to meet the demand with this lengthy cold spell. Literally seven retailers feel it will be weeks until they receive any product and finally, our Chief Mark Snyder indicated the emergency calls for accidents have increased dramatically with broken/sprained ankles, hips, wrists that are due to ice build up. Valerie Wax-Carr indicates the residents will provide proof of residency via electric bill or drivers license at one of the four fire stations to pick up their 5-gallon bucket (55 lbs.) of road salt. This period will be from 2-11-04 through 2-23-2004. There will be a mixture of city employees manning the stations, such a fire personnel and other "labor" people. Residents will be able to pick up for elderly neighbors/residents. Carol Klinger indicates that if all residents take advantage of this temporary program, the cost would be \$14,000.00. It is unlikely that everyone will participate but this is a great program for our residents who need to get out and are unable to safely do so. Thank you to the Mayor for this wonderful suggestion.

The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. A-40

Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.