

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

May 2, 2005

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

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:20 p.m. The minutes from the Finance Committee meeting of 4/18/05 were approved as submitted.

Pieces of Legislation this evening (second readings):

B-62	An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract, according to law, for the purchase of a backhoe/loader, and declaring an emergency.
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Don indicates last year we had to take two units out of service due to their age & wear. Borrowing backhoes back and forth has caused many issues and we just don't have enough throughout the city. Mr. Brodzinski indicates there were some savings on two projects that we were able to finance this machine from vs. waiting until next years budget.

The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-62

B-63	A Resolution joining AMP-OHIO in its protest of SECA Charges as imposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and declaring an emergency.
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The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has imposed Seams Elimination Cost Adjustments Charges for how we move power across the grid. SECA charges will cost about \$170,000 per month to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. These SECA charges are mandated by federal regulators and AMP-Ohio is continuing to protest and work toward getting rebates. AMP-Ohio and its communities are challenging this charge, but ultimately we are responsible for this figure beginning in June. Mr. Bye indicates we are considering adjusting the power cost factor, but it will affect the customer at about \$2-\$3 per month. We are filing protests to help pressure the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission into changing this ruling. Mr. Gorbach questions if there are current figures our cities would be responsible for using current information, not 2002? According to Valerie, we paid transmission charges in 2002 and now they are taking how you moved power then and billing you again. In some cases, you are being double billed.

Valerie indicates we haven't separated out the line item for this cost on our utility billing. We were just going to adjust the total power cost. This hasn't been determined. Mrs. Hummel asks about how the bills are being sent when we haven't received a bill yet and is it retroactive to December 2004? This is ludicrous to an already stressed economically state like Ohio and she hopes they are successful in their protest.

The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-63

B-48	An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for repairs to various properties as needed due to the Point of Sale Inspection Program in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.
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Valerie indicates we were in the bidding process and the first time, we didn't have a lot of success. There were a lot of specifications for the plumbing industry. Russ Crane is our new Storm Water Administrator and has been on board over a month. Mr. Bell indicates he has secured two contractors to meet our needs for the Point of Sale Inspections. Mr. Gobach questions how are we going to quote jobs o the homeowners. According to Mr. Bell, sanitary lateral on private property vs. easement areas, sump pump (on/off easements), and many other figures will be given out by the city and are fixed with our contractors. The contractor, for the laterals is Correct Plumbing. United Survey will do the lining through the basement.

Don Walters asks what the cost breakdown between the replacement and the lining was. Mr. Bell indicates the lining is considerably more but offers less invasive measures. Mrs. Hummel asks about how many homes the \$150,000 (requested by this Ordinance) would cover? If it were all sanitary laterals, we would do a lot more, because that is the less expensive repair. But to average a number of homes is almost impossible because each resident has unique needs. Mrs. Carr feels this will cover us for a year, based on estimates on linear feet. Mrs. Pyke asks if a sump pump is tied into the down spouts and put out to the street, we are responsible from the “right-of-way” through the street and the homeowner gets it to the sidewalk only, correct? Valerie indicates that is correct. Valerie indicates we purchased a cable camera. The sewer maintenance team has started training on that with Russ. It is still easier to have Dynamerica handle the mainline big camera jobs vs. us purchasing the camera with maintenance, etc. We review all tapes prior to them receiving their report. Valerie clarifies that our water department would correct the “right-of-way” area. Correct Plumbing will do the sanitary sewer repairs. You need a permit to work in the “right-of-way” and homeowners pull a \$20 permit fee. Valerie indicates that they can review Building fees for the future.

Mrs. Klinger asks how quickly the city is repairing their problems from the dye & smoke testing. When we get to the city’s portion of the lateral and there are problems, we coordinate and continue the work out to the street. Mr. Gorbach requests a “list” of who is responsible so they can explain it to their residents.

The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-48

Miscellaneous Business:

Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.