

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Meeting

January 4, 2005

Chair: Mary Ellen Pyke; Vice Chair: Terry Mader; Member: Jerry James.

Mary Ellen Pyke brought the Public Affairs Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. All member of the Committee were present. The minutes of 12/6/04 were approved as submitted.

Scheduled legislation (second reading):

A-194	An Ordinance amending Section 925.02 of the Codified ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Brodzinski indicates that there is a slight change to the average utility comparison of 3.31%. The hand out provided indicates that we are third lowest on the list in Summit County. There is a treatment portion, an operating portion, and a billing portion. Since 1986, Akron has increased the sewer rate 134.8%. We have only passed onto the residents 108%. Since we don't have our own treatment plant, we are considerably low. There are separate meters for lawn maintenance "sprinkler meter" which is not processed through the sewer at the cost of approximately \$100 per household.

Mr. Gorbach does not like the sewer increases but our residents realize that to maintain the services in our city, our costs are rising. He is in support of this because our residents demand high level of services. We are working smarter.

Mayor Robart indicates that without increases, our services would decline, which is unacceptable. With these increases, our rates are still one of the lowest in the county. We are keeping them as low as possible without diminishing our services.

The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. A-194

A-195	A Resolution supporting HB1673 in the House of Representatives of the United States of America to establish a Department of Peace, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Gorbach indicates this was introduced into the House in 2001. This isn't going to help establish a Department of Peace, since this has been hanging out there for four years. It is not meant to abolish the Department of Defense.

Mary Ellen indicates that this came out in the 108th Congress and the new 109th Congress was sworn in today, so isn't this bill dead? Mr. Gorbach isn't sure whether another bill will be brought forward. At 2% of the Department of Defense budget, which is about 400 Billion Dollars, or 8 Billion Dollars for this Department, which establishes another level of government and takes away money from the Department of Defense that is in the middle of the Iraq conflict.

Mr. Gorbach does not want to adversely affect our troops in Iraq. Mr. Mader indicates the spirit of this is to promote peace. History says the Vietnam War was lost. Another entity to come onto the scene is too much. A diplomatic approach to peace starts at home, locally. Our primary function is to keep the peace, like our police department. Our primary function is peace and does not need to be litigated with an established entity. He is not in support of another level of government to promote it.

Mrs. Hummel respects the comments made here this evening. The structure of our government has changed when issues arise, such as the Homeland Security. This legislation is intriguing to say that Peace

is just as important as Defense on the Federal level. Mrs. Hummel is in support of this and thanks Mr. Gorbach for bringing it forward. We train our military in lengthy processes and I would like as much emphasis placed on peace.

Mrs. Klinger indicates this bill is dead. There is nothing for them to vote on and we will look ridiculous sending this resolution. We would look incompetent. There are things thrown into this bill that make me uncomfortable, like the creation of laws for peace to animals. Mr. Gorbach indicates we can amend this resolution to clarify wording.

Mayor Robart indicates there is no logic in dealing with Nazi's, terrorists, or other situations like these. Judgments and establishing logic to these people who don't think logically are fruitless. In the real world, are we creating another 8 Billion dollar budget that will spin his wheels and not accomplish anything.

Mr. Gorbach asks why can't we try this? If it doesn't work, it can be scrapped. We still have conflict and in situations, you have to react to situations appropriately. He understands the Mayors comments.

The committee suggests bringing out Temp. Ord. A-195 without a recommendation.

Miscellaneous Business:

Plans Examiner, Kathy Richards, began on 12/1/04. The commercial plumbing permits must still be done through the county. Mrs. Hummel asks if we are caught up? Mrs. Carr indicates we are not totally caught up. Our building permits are up 50%. Mr. Bell indicates we are running about 3 weeks. We were down to 2 weeks, but there have been delays.

Mary Ellen thanks Mr. Novak for his service over the last couple weeks due to the exceptional service with the unusual weather/snow.

Held Legislation:

A-79	An Ordinance amending sections 1309.26 and 1309.30 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.
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The Public Affairs Committee Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.