

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

December 17, 2018

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Mr. James was absent.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Res. A-113
Temp. Ord. A-114
Temp. Ord. A-115
Temp. Ord. A-116
Temp. Ord. A-117
Temp. Ord. A-118
Temp. Ord. A-119
Temp. Ord. A-120
Temp. Ord. A-121
Temp. Ord. A-122

Discussion:

Temp. Res. A-113

A resolution requesting the Summit County Fiscal Officer to make advance distribution of tax receipts payable to the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that the Ohio Revised Code stated that the City needs to pass a resolution to receive advancement of property tax receipts. The Summit County Fiscal Office collects twice a year. Mr. Gorbach stated there is no negative impact to the City for requesting the dollars early and, if they receive them early, it's a benefit.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-113 with a favorable recommendation, second by Gorbach. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-114

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of the City's requirements of certain services, materials and supplies for use by the Water and Sewer Division during 2019, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. John Christopher, Water Utilities Superintendent, stated that this ordinance is for their annual requirements and used to order treatment chemicals, utility pads for water and sewer, to repair sewer dig-ups, meter supplies and pipe and tubing supplies, water pump replacement and miscellaneous equipment for repairs and parts.

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Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-114 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-115

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials and supplies for use by the Street Department during 2019, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Charles Novak, Street Commissioner, stated that this ordinance is very similar to the ordinances for the past 16 years concerning rock salt and asphalt products. Last year, they were paying almost \$50 a ton and now they are paying almost \$80 a ton this year. Luckily, with the weather so far, they have only used 329 tons through today. In years past, they have used up to 2,000 tons by this time of the year. Average salt usage is 11,000 tons a season, and they're starting off with 10,000 tons in storage. They do have salt brine, as well. Mrs. Pyke asked if they are still picking up leaves. Mr. Novak stated that they are in the last two areas this week.

Mr. Gorbach moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-115 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-116

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials and supplies for use by the Division of Sanitation during 2019, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak stated that this ordinance pertains to refuse containers. In years past, they also had the maintenance of vehicles, but that is now handled under the Garage. This covers 1,000 yard waste carts, 2,500 trash carts and 500 recycle carts that comprise of this budget.

Mr. Gorbach moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-116 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-117

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of the City's requirements for certain materials, supplies, and equipment for use by the Electric Division during 2019, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Michael Dougherty, Electric Superintendent, stated that everything is pretty much in line with year-to-year spending with nothing added besides fuel. Now that they have peaking generators that they take care of themselves, they added fuel to the list.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-117 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed (2-0).

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Temp. Ord. A-118

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials, supplies and services for use by the Garage Division during 2019, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-118 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-119

An ordinance providing for supplemental and/or amended appropriations of money for current operating expenses and capital expenditures of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and authorizing the transfer of appropriations within and for the various funds hereinafter set forth, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach stated that Council received Exhibits A and B this afternoon via e-mail. Mr. Hoffman stated that this ordinance is their clean-up piece at the end of the year, so they aren't over-appropriated in the line items over appropriations when they get to the city audits. He provided A and B and a description sheet that talks about each line item.

Mr. Hoffman stated that, on Exhibit B, in the Municipal Income Tax Fund, in the Personal Services line item, they are decreasing that by \$60,000. In Other Operations, they are decreasing that line item by \$114,000. In Exhibit A, in the General Fund Capital Projects for the Recreation Levy Fund, they are decreasing those appropriations appropriately with regards to net income tax revenues. The tax revenues have been down with regards to collections this year, so they are decreasing those line items for that purpose. They have had discussions with RITA on their collection efforts and how the City is going to approach that going forward. RITA is well aware of where the City stands. They have talked about starting, early in 2019, to bring those collections back up to what has been anticipated and talked about in the budget timeframe. Mrs. Pyke asked why they are moving money from the General Fund to Electric. Mr. Hoffman stated that is on Exhibit B. What they do there is the Electric Fund, per Ohio Revised Code, has a kilowatt tax portion that is charged. When they collect electric revenues, a portion of that is a tax. Per Ohio Revised Code, they need to put that tax in the General Fund first and then move that over into the Electric Fund. They do that to keep electric rates down as best they can. Mrs. Pyke asked if the amount of \$1.68 million was what was moved into the General Fund.

Mr. Hoffman stated that it was close.

Mr. Gorbach moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-119 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-120

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety or the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase or lease of various vehicles and related equipment for use by the City, and declaring an emergency.

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Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-120 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-121

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase, removal and installation of 23KV substation switches and related equipment to upgrade and maintain system reliability on 23KV subtransmission system, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Dougherty stated that they want to increase that capacity on the substation switches to 1200 amps which will be good for the system. If they have a problem, they want to keep everybody in power, so they can flow more amps over the system in case of emergency. Mr. Gorbach asked if they were proposing to replace all 17 600 switches with 17 new 1200 switches. Mr. Dougherty stated that was correct.

Mr. Gorbach moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-121 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. A-122

An ordinance levying special assessments for the repair or replacement of sidewalks and drive approaches in the Sidewalk and Drive Approach Repair and Replacement District, for the year 2018, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, Engineer, stated this is the annual ordinance allowing them to send out the invoices for the sidewalk and drive approach repairs done in 2018. The sidewalks for replacement, for 2018, remain at \$17 per foot and \$7 per square foot for driveway. They did 129 sidewalk locations and 28 drive approaches. They get requests from pedestrians and property owners alike and they go out and evaluate. For the most part, the property owners, are receptive to the program. They want to see improvements.

Mr. Gorbach stated that Council did receive a listing of these projects in case there is any questions regarding specific ones from the rail. Mrs. Pyke stated that her e-mail was not working, and requested the attachment be sent to her again. Mr. Hoffman stated that he would be happy to re-send it to her and take a look at her e-mail to make sure that it is working fine.

Ms. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-122 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed (2-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.