

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee

September 17, 2018

Members: Jerry James, Chair
Paul Colavecchio
Jeff Iula

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 7:58 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the May 21, 2018, June 18, 2018 and July 2, 2018 Public & Industrial Improvements Committee were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-74

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-74

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for construction of a Law Enforcement Training Facility, located at 3497 Wyoga Lake Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, stated that the Police Department is proposing to construct a new masonry, roughly 80-foot-by-140-foot training facility behind Fire Station Number 5. The facility will include a firing range and training rooms to be used by the Police Department. The project has been bid, and they anticipate awarding next week. Bids were opened on September 5th, and seven bids were received. The bids are posted on the front page of the City's website. The low bid is from Seitz Builders, Incorporated. The project will take about 11 months to complete. It was designed by Dave Pelligra.

Police Chief Davis stated that they are getting closer and are very excited about it. The budget numbers came in with the bid. He appreciates all the help given by Mr. Demasi, Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Balthis. There is a need for the training center. He has had a lot of questions about it, and he has had a lot of people contact him and ask him where the City is at with the project. While going through the hiring process, in talking with the some of the people they are trying to recruit, it is a big plus seeing the commitment of the City. These are all positives as far as the Police Department is concerned.

Mr. James stated that in discussions he has had with residents throughout the city and the throughout his ward, there has not been one negative comment made about this. He also is very excited about it. Mrs. Pyke stated that it is a scary time out there right now. She stated that she applauds Chief Davis for pursuing this, because not a lot of City Councils would say they are going to spend this kind of money on a shooting range and training facility. The City needs this. She wants to know if something is happening in her ward, and there is someone pointing a gun at

Public & Industrial Improvements Committee
September 17, 2018 – Page 2

a person, they stop the shooting. Chief Davis stated that they have brave men and women that go out to protect the City every day. They work really hard. He appreciates hearing that from Council. Mr. James stated that he has nothing but respect for the City's Safety Forces. He has been a proponent of them ever since he has been on Council and before then.

Mr. Gorbach stated that when Chief Davis came before Council the first time, he was discussing some conversations he had with surrounding communities and gathering some ideas of what other communities may want to use this facility. Mr. Gorbach asked if those conversations have continued since then. Chief Davis stated that, without having a facility, there are no firm commitments. Other communities see what's going on right now. No one is using the Munroe Falls range, because, with outdoor ranges, there are some contamination problems. That's not the only range that is having problems. He has had calls from those police chiefs. He has talked to the Stark County Safety Director. There has been a lot of interest from other areas. He is confident there are people that would want to come and use this range. Cuyahoga Falls is not the only city where it's become more and more developed to the point where they can't go shooting outside without disrupting people, so there is that need for it. He is fairly confident that being a training center besides a shooting range will be beneficial. The Police Department invested in a laser shot years ago and not many nearby communities have one. It's a great training tool for scenario-based training and an added plus. 3-0 Paul did not respond.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-74 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.