

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

July 19, 2021

Members: Mary Nichols Rhodes
Frank Stams
Adam Miller

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the July 6, 2021, Public Improvements Committee were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-58

Temp. Ord. B-59

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-58

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with MS Consultants, Inc., for professional engineering services for the improvements to Portage Trail Extension West, from State Road to Northampton Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-58 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with MS Consultants, Inc., for professional engineering services for the improvement to Portage Trail Extension West, from State Road to Northampton Road. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund, Line Item, Capital Outlay.

Mr. Demasi stated that ODOT will reimburse 90 percent of the costs for this. Project design is January 2023 with construction starting in April 2023 and construction being complete in the fall of 2024. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that it shows how complicated things are and how far in advance they have to back away from the project to put everything in place. She stated that she appreciates how professional and competent the City's Administrators are.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-58 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-59

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a professional services agreement with CT Consultants for the preparation of a Water System Master Plan, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Russell Kring, Water Utilities Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance B-59 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls water system is required to maintain compliance with OEPA

Public Improvements Committee
July 19, 2021- Page 2

and USEPA rules and regulations. The City strives to develop and maintain a comprehensive model of the water system to better plan for new and replacement water projects. Maintenance of the water distribution system is a crucial component to providing continued service to customers while minimizing disruptions. Increasing risks to the City's water system from natural and man-made hazards, acts of vandalism, terrorism, and cyberterrorism must be assessed and prepared for to the highest degree possible. The City seeks to compile a complete and comprehensive list of all assets associated with its water treatment and distribution systems.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with CT Consultants in an amount not to exceed \$270,000.00 for the study and creation of a Water System Master Plan. The Finance Director will be authorized to make payment for same from the Water Fund, Line Item, Other Operations. The Mayor, Director of Finance, Director of Public Service, Director of Law, and any other public officials, individually and/or collectively as may be appropriate, will be authorized to prepare and execute such other documents and do all other things as are necessary or incidental to carrying out the intent and/or requirements of this legislation.

Mr. Kring stated that this process has been in the works for a couple years. It is a two-prong requirement. They are required by the Ohio EPA to provide this master plan, which basically gives a framework to how they are going to run the Water Department with all its related facilities in the years to come. It's also going to be a framework for the City on how it wants to proceed moving forward; what lines to replace and how they are going to maintain the system. It will provide a model for the system and tell them pressures and things like that. This is a comprehensive plan that is going to be put in place. They went out on a qualification-based process and selected CT to do the work.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that she appreciates that Mr. Kring answered all her questions. He shared with her that there are eight main tasks that the company is prepared to do. One of the ones that she thinks is especially important is Number Four, the Risk and Resiliency Emergency Plan. They need to be forward-thinking in making sure that climate change is being addressed especially in something as important as water. It's proactive and it's complete.

Mr. Balthis thanked Mr. Kring, the Service Director and the Mayor for moving forward on this. The asset management part is really critical. The water system is one of the largest assets that the City has. Anything proactive is very important. When they talk about the water pressure, it's not just about public service, but there's a public safety component with fire hydrants. It's a huge task and will take a lot of work, but it is important.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-59 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Stams. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.