

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

September 20, 2021

Members: Mary Nichols Rhodes
Frank Stams
Adam Miller

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. Mr. Miller was absent.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Res. B-75

Temp. Ord. B-76

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-75

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission for the improvement of West Portage Trail Extension, from State Road to Northampton Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Resolution B-75 to Council. The Ohio Public Works Commission (“OPWC”), through its State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program, provides financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has identified the need, plans for, and proposes a capital improvement to public infrastructure, to wit: PID 108084, SUM Portage Trail Extension, Improvement of West Portage Trail Extension, from State Road to Northampton Road. The infrastructure improvement hereinabove described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC program. The Mayor will be authorized to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan from the Ohio Public Commission for the purpose of supporting the capital improvement consisting of removal and replacement of pavement, signage, light poles, and storm sewer as needed, to reconstruct the roadway from State Road to Northampton Road, by means of the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Mayor and any other necessary City official will be authorized to enter into agreements as may be necessary to apply for and accept the financial assistance mentioned herein. The Clerk will be directed to prepare and transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Public Works Commission.

Mr. Demasi stated that the total cost of the project with design and right of way is estimated at about \$7.2 million. Of that amount, the City has secured funding for about \$5.4 million. With the OPWC opportunity, they hope to submit a grant for approximately \$845,000. They would like to be able to pick up about half of what they are currently scheduled to pay in 2023.

Mr. Gorbach asked how competitive this type of grant is. Mr. Demasi stated that it is very competitive. It is a grant they use all the time. They used it to apply for the waterline on Bailey

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Road. Just about every community in Summit County applies for this type of grant. This is a very good project and will score very well. It already has resources from outside funding. They look for that and also for projects that are being developed and close to construction. This is certainly there. They are ready to go in in about a year and a half.

Mr. Balthis stated that a lot of work goes into these applications with no guarantee of return. He thanked Mr. Demasi for being proactive and making sure that they are taking a shot of all the grant money. He also thanked Mr. Demasi's team and the Administration in putting the best foot forward to benefit the citizens of Cuyahoga Falls.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Res. B-75 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (2-0).

Temp. Ord. B-76

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of overhead and underground power lines on Feeder 801, Feeder 802, and Feeder 304 to prepare for 12.5kv conversion, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Rodney Truxell, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented Temporary Ordinance B-76 to Council. Feeder 801, Feeder 802, and Feeder 304 have equipment that has reached the end of its expected useful life and must be replaced. Feeder 801, Feeder 802, and Feeder 304 also have under-rated electrical equipment that needs to be upgraded to make the feeders ready for conversion from 4160 V to 12.5 kV. The Substation for feeders 801 and 802 needs to be retired and this work will enable this to occur. Feeders 801, 802, and 304 load will be moved to Feeders 803, 804, and 401. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of overhead and underground power lines on Feeder 801, Feeder 802, and Feeder 304 to replace or eliminate aged equipment and under-voltage rated electrical equipment with properly rated electrical equipment to make the lines ready to be converted to 12.5 kV. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Electric Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked if there will be any disruption in service during the work. Mr. Truxell stated that with a lot of the overhead work, they keep people in power; however, when they are changing out a complete transformer, there is no choice but to take them out of power. They will do some outages with residents and will give them a day's notice if it's more than one. This will be contracted out, so the contractors will be doing that, but they follow City procedures. With some of the businesses, they may contract for a generator to be put in place to keep them in power. They will keep outages to a minimum, but cannot guarantee there wouldn't be any.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked how long a period of time this will take. Mr. Truxell stated that Mr. Dougherty, Electric Superintendent, has given them a year. The downside is that, in this industry, it is getting backed up as far as lead time. They do have a lot of material in stock, so they will be able to move rather quickly at this time. They don't foresee having to extend it.

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Mr. Stams asked in how large of an area will the outages be located. Mr. Truxell stated that, typically, they'll be done one transformer at a time, so anywhere between 4 to 25 residential customers. The businesses would be one business. Mr. Stams asked if there are three or four blocks within a transformer. Mr. Truxell stated that there could be some old transformers. The older transformers can handle a lot more than the new ones. Old transformers might feed three blocks, and they will have to put three transformers out there.

Mr. Gorbach stated that he had no idea that the City would fund, through the contractors, some generators for businesses. They probably can't do that for every business, but for the businesses that need power to keep them running, that's great. Mr. Truxell stated that it does depend on the size of the business. They can do some of the smaller ones. When they do work on their own, they have discussed renting generators to help the businesses out.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-76 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed (2-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.