

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

February 8, 2021

- Call to Order:** Mr. Brillhart at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call:** Mr. Balthis, present; Mr. Brillhart, present; Mr. Gorbach, present; Mr. Iula, present; Mr. James, present; Ms. Loza, present; Mr. Miller, present; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, present; Mrs. Penta, present; Mrs. Spinner, present; Mr. Stams, present.
- Invocation:** Mrs. Spinner
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Brillhart
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 25, 2021 Council Meeting were approved as written.
- Reports and Communications:** None

New Legislation

(First Reading)

No New Legislation

Reports of Council's Standing Committees

(Third Reading)

Planning & Zoning

Temp. Ord. A-110

An ordinance approving a zoning map amendment for Parcels 35-00402 and 35-00517 (4344 and 4356 Wyoga Lake Road) from E1 Employment District to MU3 Sub-Urban Center, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Spinner moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-110, second by Mr. James. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. B-1

An ordinance authorizing and approving the Preliminary Subdivision Plat for the Ledges at Pine Ridge on Parcel 37-00221 (5008 State Road), and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Spinner moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-1, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Finance & Appropriations:

Temp. Ord. B-2

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the demolition of structures located on 121 May Avenue within the city and removal of demolition debris, and certifying the cost thereof to the County Fiscal Officer for collection in the manner provided by law, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-2, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. B-3

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for repairs to the pavilion located at 2085 Front Street, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-3, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. B-4

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the Water Works Family Aquatic Center roof replacement project, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-4, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Public Improvements:

Temp. Ord B-5 (Sub. Dated 2/1/21)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the annual resurfacing and/or repair of various streets as described in exhibit 'A' attached hereto, in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-5 (Sub. Dated 2/1/21), second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Public Affairs:

Temp. Ord. B-6

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into the Summit County Service Department Response Network Mutual Aid Agreement with various political subdivisions within Summit County, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Balthis moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-6, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Community Development:

Temp. Ord. B-7

An ordinance implementing sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code, establishing and describing the boundaries of the Portage Trail Midtown Community Reinvestment Area in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Penta moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-7, second by Ms. Loza. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Schedule of Committee Meetings

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| Planning & Zoning: | Subject to Call. |
| Finance: | Subject to Call. |
| Public Improvements: | Subject to Call. |
| Public Affairs: | Subject to Call. |
| Community Development: | Subject to Call. |

Miscellaneous Business

Ms. Sarah Kline, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Mr. Michael Fallis, Deputy Parks and Recreation Superintendent, and Mr. Patrick Hoagland, of Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., presented the Parks and Recreation Continuous Improvement Plan adopted by Park Board on January 21, 2021 to Council.

Mr. Stams asked how far out the study goes. Mr. Hoagland stated that the population projections went through 2024, but the recommendation is looking out 10 years. Mr. Stams stated that he is glad to see the amphitheater being implemented. He asked if the red areas on the map indicated areas where it was harder to access the current parks. Mr. Hoagland stated that is correct. Mr. Stams stated that that problem may get worse with the number of residents growing in Ward 8. He stated that he would be interested in reading the entire report and seeing how well it serves the rapid-growing community that currently has some accessibility issues.

Mr. James stated that has been a long time coming when it comes to a plan like this. He is excited about the improvements happening in the parks and extremely pumped about what is going in Kennedy Park with the paths and all the different courts. Mr. Fallis and Ms. Klein do an admirable job in their positions and these plans that Mr. Hoagland came through with, along with them, are wonderful.

Mr. Balthis stated that he was excited to hear about the amount of public input that was solicited and provided. It is critical. He appreciates the mindfulness and the thought about being inclusive and accessible to people with difficulties and to make sure the parks are there to benefit everybody in the community. Mr. Balthis asked if there were any cost estimates, as they move out, for planning purposes, or is that something will be bid out at the time. Mr. Fallis stated that there are cost estimates on the full report. They go out several years, so, obviously, they will change significantly the further out they go with them. Mr. Balthis stated that is great because it helps Council and, more specifically, Mr. Hoffman and the Administration in how they accomplish those things. He knows it will take time and the numbers will help to keep everyone on track and to accomplish these goals.

Mrs. Penta stated that she was part of some of the face-to-face meetings and Zoom meetings, and to see the report here is wonderful, because there are a lot of things with the ADA compliance and helping to bring all the community to enjoy these parks. Incorporating the art community in some fashion is amazing because of the Art Board. Babb Run is a unique treasure in Ward 3, and she is interested in getting feedback and improvement. Mr. Fallis stated that the font was small on the screen, but the canoe access was a recommendation after the removal of the Gorge Dam. Mr. Hoagland stated that there was a lot of love for Babb Run in the surveys.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes thanked the Park Board, Mr. Hoagland, Mr. Fallis, Ms. Kline, and everybody involved in the plan. The most impressive part is truly that this will be a community project that reflects what the community wants. It has been obvious that the City's parks are super important to all the residents, so they appreciate that the Administration has gone ahead with this forward-thinking vision to continue to make that a huge way to improve the quality of life in Cuyahoga Falls.

Mr. Gorbach thanked Mr. Fallis, Ms. Kline, Mr. Hoagland and the members of the community that participated. He asked if any items in the current budget dovetail to any of the early recommendations from this report and will they receive recommendation from the Park Board or the Parks and Recreation Department insofar as what items they feel they can start attacking first. Ms. Kline stated that reflected in the 2021 budget are some projects that were confirmed as important in the plan. A notable one that Council tonight approved tonight is to do some repair work at the Pavilion. Whether it is doing architectural plans for a possible renovation to Galt Park Lodge or it is repairs to Waterworks, things that are already in progress and things that the Department, in collaboration with other members of the Administration, would put forth as necessary are indeed confirmed in the report. They will be providing to City Council and, by extension, to the public and the community, ideas as to what they see the most viable options. Mr. Fallis stated that, while this plan now adopted by Park Board sets a strategic action plan in place, that action plan is ever evolving. The next steps would be to move into an implementation committee and phasing out what areas are the highest priority as they move forward. They will

improve what they can now and budget for the future projects. Mr. Gorbach stated that he looks forward to having the full report and then hearing their thoughts as they progress through the year. Ms. Kline stated that Council should have received a link from Ms. Ciotola to access to the full report. If they should need that again, or if it is not working, please let Mr. Fallis or her know and they will forward it. That will take you to not just the summary presented tonight, but the full report.

Mr. Miller stated that he appreciates all the work that has been done. He asked if every park is going to have its own master plan and would they be able to provide the master plans for specific parks when they become available. Mr. Fallis stated that, in this project, there are five concept plans for parks, so they do not have concept plans for all 26 neighborhood parks. The contract provided for five in this project. As they move forward through different phases, they would need to contract for different concept plans and master plans for those specific areas.

Mr. Hoagland stated that the concept plans are pretty general, so they need to have detailed studies and more analysis. What the idea would be and specifically how they would be designed and arranged would be something that they would do in a more-detailed Master Plan and working with the neighbors near the parks. Ms. Kline stated that it is important to note that these concept drawings are a good way to formulate plans and work towards a strategic idea of what fits in that space and what makes sense based on what the community has identified is important to the residents of the City through surveys and through engagement. She would caution that no one should take the concept plans as to what would go through specifically. That absolutely will be changed based on the neighborhood, funding, timing, new interests, or new needs that may be identified by the community as they move into the future. It is certainly a great starting point, but not something that anyone should take on the final say as to what a park will look like in the future.

Mr. Iula stated that he has played in a lot of the parks over the years, from Preston to Waterworks, and he is extremely excited about what is being done. Cuyahoga Falls has always been known for its parks. They have the river and now they have the great Front Street, but residents are lucky with 26 parks and just improving them and making them better. Waterworks was rebuilt 25 years ago, and it still looks great. It is also great to have some of the City's senior citizens doing more of the things in park.

Mrs. Spinner stated thanked them for such a detailed and exciting plan to move forward. She is looking forward to seeing how they are going to improve on all the others. The presentation tonight was fabulous.

Mr. Brillhart stated that the management and staff of the Parks and Recreation Department is outstanding. It has been his privilege, with all of the improvements made to Lions Park last year and in working in the flower beds, to meet all of these workers. They are 100-percent dedicated to the Parks and Recreation Department and the City. Cuyahoga Falls has a wonderful park system, and they all make it happen.

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Michael Brillhart, Council President

Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council