

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting

May 23, 2022

- Call to Order:** Mr. Balthis at 6:30 p.m.
- Roll Call:** Mr. Ashton, present; Mr. Balthis, present; Mr. Brillhart, present; Mr. Gorbach, 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. Ashton
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 9, 2022 Council meeting were approved as written.
- Reports and Communications:** None.

New Legislation
(First Reading)

Temp. Ord. A-57 (Planning & Zoning)

An ordinance accepting the Planning Commission recommendation for the construction of ten (10) single family attached dwelling units to be constructed within three (3) separate buildings located on property at the southwest corner of Second Street and Wadsworth Avenue, for the Summit Housing Development Corporation, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-58 (Public Improvements)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with a firm or firms, for concrete pavement repairs to various streets, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Res. A-59 (Public Improvements)

A resolution of intent to appropriate certain property along West Portage Trail Extension between State Road and Northampton Road, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-60 (Public Affairs)

An ordinance amending Chapter 1371 of the City of Cuyahoga Falls Codified Ordinances, relating to the BOCA National Property Maintenance Code, and declaring an emergency.

Reports of Council's Standing Committees
(Third Reading)

Planning & Zoning

Temp. Ord. A-51

An ordinance authorizing and approving the Final Subdivision Plat for Plaza at Chapel Hill – Third Replat located on the south side of Howe Avenue between Main Street and Center Drive, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Spinner moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-51, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Finance & Appropriations:

Temp. Ord. A-52

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Independent Diesel Service for the maintenance and repair of City diesel electric generators, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-52, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. A-53

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor as Director of Public Safety to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Motorola, Inc. for the upgrade of and licensing fees for public safety regional dispatch system equipment, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-53, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Public Improvements:

Temp. Ord. A-54

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the replacement of the roof on Fire Station 5, located at 3497 Wyoga Lake Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Penta moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-54, second by Mr. Stams. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. A-55

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of Paddle Park and the expansion of the existing corner plaza located at 2170 Front Street, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Penta moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-55, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Public Affairs:

No Report.

Community Development:

No Report.

Schedule of Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning:	June 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.
Finance:	Subject to Call.
Public Improvements:	June 6, 2022, at 6:35 p.m.
Public Affairs:	June 6, 2022, at 6:40 p.m.
Community Development:	Subject to Call.

Miscellaneous Business

Ms. Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director, reminded Council of two upcoming art events be held on Sunday, June 5, from 12–3 p.m., at the Cuyahoga Falls Downtown Pavilion, 2085 Front Street a local theater group and interviews of community members by local artist Alison Miltner Rich. This is the first of two public engagement sessions that will be held in the community.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, reviewed Report 21 with Council. In the Property Tax Revenue Line Item in the General Fund, they have gotten the first-half settlement. The City received 2.2 percent more in property tax revenue from this time last year. They are still seeing strong numbers through all the revenue line items, including the Local Government Fund. Coming in from the County, the largest line item in the General Fund is the Income Tax Line Item. They are up in total income tax numbers at just over 2.7 percent year to date.

In the Street Construction Maintenance and Repair Fund, the numbers are starting to come in fairly strong. Under the Hotel-Motel Tax item, from the quarter one of 2020 to quarter one of 2021, they were down 15 percent, but are starting to see those revenues coming in and will see how they finish out in 2022. In the Leisure Time Fund, they have been tracking the Natatorium attendance and memberships. They are seeing about a 16-percent increase over 2021 in total charges for services

for the Natatorium. They will continue to see slow upticks in memberships. The Waterworks membership numbers come in strong, with early numbers showing a 39.3 percent increase in charges for services. With the colder spring, they will be looking at the May numbers for the golf course. He expects a rebound in some of those revenues because of the improvement in the weather.

In the Self-Insurance Fund in the Medical Line Item, they are seeing about a 75-percent increase in medical costs over 2021. They have done some analysis on those numbers, and found that they have had more one-time hospitalizations over the first few months of the year. They will be tracking those numbers very closely throughout 2022 and expect those to normalize. As of right now, there are no signs of long-term costs that they anticipate in the Self-Insurance Fund, but they have prepared for this. They have a good cash balance in the fund for this type of activity, so he does not anticipate an issue in this fund as of now.

Mr. Balthis asked if they anticipate having to put any claims on the stop-loss insurance. Mr. Hoffman stated that they have one claimant that is close. They have had, over the past couple of years, one or two breach. They are not seeing any abnormal activity there. The higher claimants that they have seen this year have not reached the stop-loss number. They do not anticipate them to do so.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked if the increase in claims or hospitalization are elective surgeries that have been put on hold because of COVID. Mr. Hoffman stated that he does not want to violate any HIPAA laws, so he cannot answer that specifically.

Mr. Stams asked what the City's deductible is on the stop loss. Mr. Hoffman stated that it is \$250,000. Once they hit \$250,000 per claimant, then the stop loss makes payments over that amount. Mr. Stams stated that he thought, by law, they can identify the cases, but does not think they can name the cases. Mr. Hoffman stated that he is not a lawyer and does not want to violate that law. Ms. Janet Ciotola, Law Director, stated that she would be happy to do some research on it and let everybody know.

Mr. Stams asked if the numbers are exaggerated being that 2020 and 2021 were so low because of less scheduled surgeries because of the pandemic. Mr. Hoffman stated that it could be a little bit of that. They have had a few cases where employees have been in the hospital for an extended period of time.

Kenny King, Tallmadge Road, stated that he had a Dogwood Tree planted in his name between the City Building and the Natatorium. He also stated that he received a new bicycle to replace his bicycle that was stolen.

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Russ Balthis, Council President

Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council