

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee**

June 21, 2021

Members: Russ Balthis, Chair
Rachel Loza
Jeff Iula

Mr. Balthis called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the April 19, 2021, and April 26, 2021, Public Affairs Committee were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-45

Temp. Ord. B-46

Temp. Ord. B-47

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-45

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control File by providing for installation of various traffic control devices, and declaring an emergency.

Police Chief Davis presented Temporary Ordinance B-45 to Council. Section 305.02 of said Chapter requires that amendments to the Traffic Control File be made only through legislation passed by City Council. Upon the recommendation of the Traffic Committee, the Traffic Control File is hereby amended as follows:

1. Request to prohibit parking on the south side of Orrville Avenue from the corner of Kilarney Street to 120 feet west of Kilarney Street.
2. Request to include in the File previously installed “no parking” signs on the even side of 12th Street between Washington Avenue and Silver Lake Avenue.

The Chief of Police will be authorized and directed to note in the Traffic Control File the proper legends. The Mayor will be authorized and directed to cause the installation or removal of the proper signage reflecting the above amendments.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-45 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Loza. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-46

An ordinance amending and/or supplementing Title 5, Public Utilities, Chapter 923.10, Northeast High Pressure Water District Capital Cost Surcharges, to cease collection of the aforementioned charges, and declaring an emergency.

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Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-46 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls owns and operates a water system serving the residential, commercial and industrial users of the City. In Chapter 923 of the City's Codified Ordinances, this Council has established rates to be charged users of the water system to pay costs of operating and maintaining the system. The City no longer has the need to collect new water extension surcharges in the Northeast High Pressure Water District. Section 1. Title 5, Public Utilities, Chapter 923.10, Northeast High Pressure Water District Capital Cost Surcharges, will be amended and/or supplemented.

Mr. Balthis stated that it is great that the City has been able to pay off that debt, and that residents that live near this line will now have the option of tapping in without having to pay additional surcharges and not having to reimburse the City for those capital improvements.

Mr. Gorbach stated that this is a big deal. These surcharges have been brought up a lot. It is good that the Administration keeps track of these items contained in ordinances and that, when they are paid off, they did as they promised and eliminated these fees. He stated that he cannot wait to vote yes on it next week.

Mr. Balthis asked who residents in this district should contact if they are interested in tapping into the water line. Mr. Hoffman stated that they can make a call to the Service Department or to the Water Department. They manage the fees and the tap fees.

Ms. Loza moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-46 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-47

An ordinance amending and/or supplementing Title 5, Public Utilities, Chapter 925.06, Woodridge Sanitary Sewer System Capital Cost Surcharges, to cease the collection of sanitary sewer extension surcharges in the Woodridge Sanitary Sewer District, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-47 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls owns and operates a sanitary sewer system serving the residential, commercial and industrial users of the City. In Chapter 925 of the City's Codified Ordinances, this Council has established rates to be charged users of the sanitary sewer system to pay costs of operating and maintaining the system. The City no longer has the need to collect new sanitary sewer system extension surcharges in the Woodridge Sanitary Sewer System. Section 1. Title 5, Public Utilities, Chapter 925.06, Woodridge Sanitary Sewer System Capital Cost Surcharges, will be amended and/or supplemented. Mr. Hoffman stated that the City brought in enough revenue to cover the cost in 2020 for the Woodridge sanitary sewer, so they are recommending the discontinuation of that surcharge, as well.

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Mr. Balthis stated that this is particularly important to individuals who currently use septic systems. If those systems fail, they can be required by the EPA to tap into a sewer line. It is nice that the City has fiscally managed this in a way to pay off the debt and to allow people to tap in without the additional surcharge.

Mr. Gorbach stated that Mr. Balthis made an excellent point about the septic systems, especially in this area. There was a lot of consternation a number of years ago when the State came out with new rules, and a lot of people that had septic systems thought they had to switch right then, even if their septic system was working fine. There was a thought it was going to be accelerated. If somebody needs to have to tap into the sewer line, it is going to be expensive as it is, but it does not have to be as expensive.

Mr. Stams stated that he is in full support of this ordinance.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-47 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Loza. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-48

An ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 2021 Energized Community Grant funds for energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Anthony Zumbo, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-47 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) and is eligible for the NOPEC Energized Community Grant for 2021 as provided for in the NOPEC grant program guidelines. This grant will facilitate energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects within the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The City has previously entered into a Grant Agreement with NOPEC, Inc. on June 12, 2020, to receive one or more NOPEC Energized Community Grant(s). The Mayor will be authorized to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2021 Energized Community Grant Funds for energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects. The Mayor, Director of Public Service, Director of Law and other necessary City officials will be authorized to provide such other information and to execute such other documents and do all other actions as are necessary for and incidental to carrying out the requirements of this ordinance and the terms of the Grant Agreement.

Ms. Loza moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-48 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.