

**CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**April 24, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Balthis at 6:32 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Ashton, present; Mr. Balthis, present; Mr. Brillhart, 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. James

**Approval of Minutes:** None

**Reports and Communications:** A letter dated April 18, 2023 from Councilperson Mary Nichols-Rhodes informing City Council and other relevant parties of her resignation from her currently-held Ward 4 Council seat (Term Ending 12/31/23).

**New Legislation**  
(First Reading)

**Temp. Ord. B-38 (Finance)**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with AT&T for telephone service lines which support alarms, elevators and dispatch non-emergency numbers throughout the City, and declaring an emergency.

**Temp. Ord. B-39 (Finance)**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with Motorola, Inc. for the purchase of APX radios for use by safety services, and declaring an emergency.

**Temp. Ord. B-40 (Public Improvements)**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts with CTI Engineers, Inc., for Water Treatment Plant improvements, and declaring an emergency.

**Temp. Ord. B-41 (Public Improvements)**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Karvo Paving Co for the installation of a new 12” water main on Portage Trail Extension West from Cedar Hill Road to an existing line located approximately 1,200 feet to the east of the intersection of Portage Trail Extension West and Cedar Hill Road, and declaring an emergency.

**Temp. Res. B-42 (Public Affairs)**

A resolution declaring the month of May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

**Temp. Ord. B-43 (Public Affairs)**

An ordinance authorizing the renaming of Portage Trail East to East Portage Trail, and Portage Trail Extension West to West Portage Trail, within the City limits of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

**Reports of Council's Standing Committees**

(Third Reading)

**Planning & Zoning:**

**Temp. Ord. B-34**

An ordinance authorizing and approving the Final Subdivision Plat for dedication of the Bellaire Lane cul-de-sac located on Bellaire Lane approximately 2,500 feet west of Quick Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Spinner moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-34, second by Mr. James. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Finance & Appropriations:**

No Report.

**Public Improvements:**

**Temp. Ord. B-36**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the Second Street Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Penta moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-36, second by Mr. Stams. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Public Affairs:**

**Temp. Ord. B-16 (Sub. Dated 4/17/23)**

An ordinance creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area known as the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, enacting regulations, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Loza moved to amend Temp. Ord. B-16 (Sub. Dated 4/17/23) to Temp. Ord. B-16 (Sub. Dated 4/24/23), second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Temp. Ord. B-16 (Sub. Dated 4/24/23)**

An ordinance creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area known as the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, enacting regulations, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Loza stated that the language in DORA application was amended with the following changes:

1. Include residents in the DORA area and elected officials (including councilpersons of the DORA area) in any discussions about how it's going.
2. The maps have been clarified to remove some private property by the river that was a topic of discussion at the end of the public meeting on 4/17.
3. The address list exhibit was checked several times and missing parcels were added in.
4. The final count on qualified liquor permit holders at this time is 20. Magna Wine Boutique does not have a permit that would allow them to sell DORA drinks. The Partnership is going to confirm and work with them should they want a qualified permit.
5. Ms. Colavecchio has reached out to the Paradise Club via email on April 18th and so far has received no response. They were previously informed of the DORA by letter on February 27th and invited to the meeting that was held on March 28th for downtown residents/businesses and have not reached out and did not attend that meeting.

Ms. Loza moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-16 (Sub. Dated 4/24/23), second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

**Community Development:**

No Report.

**Schedule of Committee Meetings**

Planning & Zoning:	Subject to Call.
Finance:	May 1, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
Public Improvements:	May 1, 2023, at 6:35 p.m.
Public Affairs:	May 1, 2023, at 6:40 p.m.
Community Development:	Subject to Call.

**Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Council with highlights of Report 21. Under Revenue, the City received the debt settlement from the County and it will be reflected in next

month's report. On the Interest side, they are meeting and exceeding expectations with interest. That has to do with cash in the City and the interest rate that the Federal Reserve Bank sets and that continues to rise. They are on course to make a little over \$3 million this year in interest revenue coming into the City.

In the General Fund under Income Tax, through March, they are seeing an approximately 8.6 percent increase in income tax revenue coming into the City. This report is still in the filing season and individual income tax numbers will tend to fluctuate, but they see a positive in the withholding side, which is payroll tax, and that is about an 8.2 percent increase over 2022. In the Leisure Time Fund, the Parks and Recreation facilities are doing better than expected at this point in time. They continue to see a little bit of the bump in the Natatorium which has been the one facility in the City that is coming back from the pandemic at a slower pace than the other facilities. From this point last year, they saw an 18.6 percent increase in revenues for charges for services. Passes are still being sold at Waterworks. They have had nice weather this year and, because of that, they are seeing about a 23.6 percent increase to charges for services at Brookledge Golf Course. The Downview Sports Center has seen a big bump in its revenue.

In the Self-Insurance Fund, the Health Insurance Committee is made up of union as well as City Administration, and it has been paying off as time continues to go on. This year, they implemented a small increase to their revenues which is through employee deductions as well as City contributions, but, on the expense beside, they are seeing decreases in expenses at this point in time. It is too early to forecast a premium holiday this year. They see about an 8 percent decrease in the Hospitalization-Dental line item and about an 18 percent decrease in prescription drug expenses this year. Those numbers can become larger very quickly if they have a health insurance claim here or there, but, so far, they are doing well on the expense side of the Self-Insurance Fund.

Mr. Balthis stated that the he applauds the Administration and the members of union that work on that committee. The collaborative approach has served the City very well and provided quality health care to employees at a cost that is reasonable for taxpayers.

Mr. Mark Ludwig, 2558 Grant Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, addressed Council and asked for input and support from City Council and the Administration in forming the South State Beautification Task Force.

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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Russ Balthis, Council President

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Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council