

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

May 1, 2023

Members: Rachel Loza, Chair
Michael Brillhart
Adam Miller

Ms. Loza called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Res. B-42

Temp. Ord. B-43

Discussion:

Temp. Res. B-42

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

Mr. Alex Hall, Communications Special, ADM Board, presented Temporary Resolution B-42 to Council. People across the United States experience mental health conditions that impact their individual health and wellbeing as well as their relationship with the community. Mental Health Awareness Month, observed since 1949, has served as a vehicle for awareness, education, and advocacy around mental health and provides an opportunity for residents to highlight the difficulties of the past few years. The City of Cuyahoga Falls in collaboration with its partners is committed to improving the mental health of residents by leading and collaborating on initiatives and programs that provide education, events, and services involving mental health.

Change Direction is a campaign by the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board that aims to change the culture around mental health in Summit County and the City of Cuyahoga Falls and improve the emotional well-being of residents, and provides an opportunity for community members and organizations to get involved in fostering mental wellness. Other programs like Mental Health First Aid training offered by organizations such as Love Akron provide other opportunities for residents to learn and raise awareness about mental health. Summit County is currently participating in Upward Mobility, an Urban Institute project focused on combating poverty, and one of this project's priorities is to increase the mental wellness of Summit County by leveraging stakeholders like the ADM Board and National Alliance on Mental Illness to improve the livelihoods of residents. Supporting and educating the community on mental health and wellness is crucial to preventing crises and fostering a healthy, thriving City and County.

Ms. Loza stated that these programs are important and crucial to people. The more they talk about it, the easier it becomes to break the stigma that surrounds mental health.

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Mr. Balthis stated that he supports this resolution. One of the many services provided by ADM is funding of a crisis center for those suffering from addiction or mental health challenges. It is important that people know that there is a place 24/7, 365 days a year that is available. It is set up in a way that if there is an inability to pay, those services can still be available.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that Mr. Hall is a community asset in so many ways by having served on the School Board, as a Neighborhood Ambassador and Three-on-Three Basketball. The work that's done by this Board is really tremendous and appreciated.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Res. B-42 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-43

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.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-43 to Council. The same road within the City of Cuyahoga Falls is known as Portage Trail, Portage Trail East, and Portage Trail Extension West. This condition of multiple street names for the same road may cause delays for responding safety forces to the correct locations using computer-aided dispatch systems.

The name of Portage Trail East, from the thalweg of the Cuyahoga River to High Street will be changed to East Portage Trail. The name of Portage Trail Extension West, within the city limits of Cuyahoga Falls, be changed to West Portage Trail. The remainder of Portage Trail within the city limits of Cuyahoga Falls will remain as Portage Trail. The City Engineer will be authorized and directed to make changes on the official map of the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

City Engineer Tony Demasi stated that this came about in discussions with the Council of Governments as part of the new dispatch center. The concern of the COG was the same street having three different names all using different prefixes and suffixes. This would standardize the names in an effort to keep a call meant to go to the 300 block of Portage Trail East from going to Portage and Third St. Akron would also be bringing up legislation in their city to rename the part of Portage Trail Extension that runs through their city to West Portage Trail to match.

Ms. Loza stated that although the work that they are doing sounds simple, anything to shave off response time for emergency responders is tremendously important. She asked if Akron will be doing something similar. Mr. Demasi stated that Akron is part of their discussion group, and they indicated they would provide the same item to Council for their portion of Portage Trail.

Mr. Balthis asked what the process is to make sure, when they take an action like this, it gets shared with the County and then updated into the GIS system, if that is where the COG will pull that data.

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Mr. Demasi stated that the folks from Summit County GIS are also part of their meetings. If City Council approves this ordinance, they will give them and everybody on the regional discussion group a copy of the ordinance.

Mr. Miller moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-43 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.