

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting

May 22, 2023

- Call to Order:** Mr. Balthis at 6:30 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; Mr. Siegferth, present; Mrs. Spinner, present; Mr. Stams, absent.
- Invocation:** Mrs. Spinner
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Mrs. Spinner
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 8, 2023 Organizational Meeting, Committee-on-Committees Meeting and Council Meeting were approved as written.
- Reports and Communications:** None

New Legislation
(First Reading)

Temp. Ord. B-48 (Planning & Zoning)

An ordinance accepting the recommendation of the Planning Commission for the construction of two self-service storage buildings for Decorus Development, LLC, located at 262 Steels Corners Road, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-49 (Finance)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with CRS Metalworx Inc., for the maintenance and repair of HVAC systems at the Electrical Division and substations, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-50 (Public Improvements)

An ordinance consenting to the resurfacing of State Route 59 from State Route 8 to the east corporation limit, within the City of Cuyahoga Falls, by the state of Ohio, authorizing financial cooperation thereof, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-51 (Public Improvements)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts for the demolition of a structure located at 357 Steels Corners Road, 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.

Temp. Ord. B-52 (Public Improvements)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with CT Consultants, Inc., for professional engineering services for the improvement to South Front Street, from Broad Boulevard to Grant Avenue, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Res. B-53 (Public Affairs)

A resolution confirming the appointment of Dr. Patrick Blakeslee as the City of Cuyahoga Falls representative to serve on the Summit County Combined General Health District Board of Health for the remainder of the unexpired term ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-54 (Community Development)

An ordinance approving and authorizing the Mayor to execute a Community Development Block Grant Agreement with Hummel Construction Company for ADA compliant renovations to the existing restroom at Quirk Cultural Center, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-55 (Community Development)

An ordinance authorizing the execution of a first amendment to grant agreement with the Community Improvement Corporation of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-56 (Community Development)

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a professional service agreement with OHM Advisors for the preparation of streetscape plans for the Bailey Road/Northmoreland Boulevard and South State Road business corridors, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. James moved to recess into a Special Public Affairs Committee meeting, second by Ms. Loza. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0). Council recessed at 6:35 p.m.

Council reconvened at 6:38 p.m.

Reports of Council's Standing Committees

(Third Reading)

Planning & Zoning:

Temp. Ord. B-35

An ordinance approving a regulatory text amendment to Section 1133.04(A)(5) to allow for the keeping of chickens in R-2, R-3 and R-4 Zoning Districts, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Spinner stated that there were concerns and questions regarding enforcement of the restrictions outlined in the Planning Commission's approval of the proposed text amendment that would make it difficult for Council to move forward in approving it. It may be brought out at a later date if they are able to work with the Administration to find solutions to those objections.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that they sought public comment on this legislation. Because of the large number of comments, they were not read at the committee meeting last week. She stated that she would like the record to reflect that there were 40 public comments, 32 in favor of the legislation and 8 against the legislation.

Mr. James stated that he believes it would be an injustice to the people to table this ordinance because they have waited a long time to have this matter heard and voted upon, especially those residents in favor of the legislation.

Mrs. Spinner moved to table Temp. Ord. B-35, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Roll Call: Mr. Ashton, Yes ; Mr. Balthis, Yes ; Mr. Brillhart, No; Mr. James, No; Ms. Loza, Yes; Mr. Miller, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes ; Mrs. Penta, No; Mr. Siegferth, No; Mrs. Spinner, Yes. Motion passes, 6-4. (Brillhart, James, Penta, Siegferth)

Finance & Appropriations:

Temp. Ord. B-44

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Community Development to enter into a contract or contracts with Scanworks, LLC for the building records imaging/scanning project, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-44, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Public Improvements:

Temp. Ord. B-45

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, after publicly advertising for bids, for concrete pavement repairs to various streets, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Penta moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-45, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Temp. Res. B-46 (Sub. Dated 5/15/23)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission for upgrades to the Bailey Road and State Road Booster Pump Stations, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Penta moved to adopt Temp. Res. B-46 (Sub. Dated 5/15/23), second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Public Affairs:

Temp. Res. B-53

A resolution confirming the appointment of Dr. Patrick Blakeslee as the City of Cuyahoga Falls representative to serve on the Summit County Combined General Health District Board of Health for the remainder of the unexpired term ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Loza moved to adopt Temp. Res. B-53, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Community Development:

Temp. Res. B-47

A resolution in support of the development of a Welcoming Workforce Coalition in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Ashton moved to adopt Temp. Res. B-47, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Schedule of Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning:	June 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
Finance:	June 5, 2023, at 6:35 p.m.
Public Improvements:	June 5, 2023, at 6:40 p.m.
Public Affairs:	Subject to Call.
Community Development:	June 5, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Dave O'Neal, Director of the Summit Emergency Communications Center (SECC), addressed Council to give an update on the progress of the SECC. Police Chief Jack Davis and Deputy Fire Chief Matt Kee were also present and gave an update on the Police and Fire operations. The date of completion of the building has been July 20 and, so far, they are on course. If all goes according to plan with training, they are on target to go live on October 17th. Forty-nine letters of intent went out for dispatchers and 46 of the 49 dispatchers have accepted positions in the new center. They are offering a good wage and benefit package in a new, state-of-the-art facility in order to keep employees and hire new employees in the future. The four dispatch centers that are part of this are in the process of consolidating procedures.

Mr. Balthis stated that this is an important project that a lot of people spent a lot of time on. One of the things discussed earlier was the additional opportunity for collaboration in sharing best practices. He is not surprised that most of the best practices come from Cuyahoga Falls. It is great they are sharing that expertise and learning new things as well. This has not been a small task, and he appreciates the work being done. He stated that he is pleased to hear the number of dispatchers

that are willing to work at the new center. That is directly tied to safety and effectiveness. Mr. O'Neal stated that they are taking years and years of experience into this building that is priceless.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that this was a proactive move in response to a state mandate to regionalize, so taking the bull by the horns and making good choices ahead of time is very much appreciated.

Mayor Walters stated that this collaboration was attempted many years ago, and they could not get it done. It was recognized that they had a common goal and the number one goal was staffing. Their dispatchers are the highest paid in the region. They will be getting a little bump, as well, but it is a huge career move for some of the other dispatchers, especially the County, so they are all happy to come over. This is a state-of-the-art facility with all the creature comforts. The biggest benefit is all these communities could come together and do the right thing.

Mr. Balthis stated that one of the goals when this was set up was not only supervision, but also to have a structure in place that would provide significantly more training. This is a confirmation that is a priority, and they are looking for a lot of training once they get up to speed and coming forward.

Mr. O'Neal stated that there will a shift supervisor on every shift. They will have a quality assurance person and a training officer. Those will be in place and full-time positions. Chief Davis stated that there is a dedicated facility room, where now training consists of being tethered to another dispatcher.

Mayor Walters acknowledged Bob and Lisa Goldstein. Before Council, they were presented the Honorary Boulevard Award. They have done amazing things for the community and he thanked them for all that they have done.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Report 21. For the month of April, under the General Fund, Line Item Interest Income, they are still seeing revenues coming in much higher than anticipated, possibility hitting approximately \$4 million this year in interest income, which is about double what was originally anticipated during budget. In the Municipal Income Tax Fund, they are continuing to see positive revenue coming in from income tax. Right now, the difference between last year and this year is about 7.9 percent, through April, of income tax increases. In the Street Construction Repair and Maintenance Fund, although he does not have the exact number they are going to end up with, the mild winter helped with overtime for employees and salt. In the Leisure Time Fund, there have been some challenges with the Natatorium, but, as of January of this year, they have seen a positive increase in memberships at the Natatorium and it is coming back stronger than anticipated. The revenues for charges for services are up 16 percent through this time last year. Waterworks passes are up about 11 percent over last year. With the mild weather this year, there has been 24-percent increase in charges for services at the golf course, as well as an 18-percent increase at Downview. In the Self-Insurance Fund, through April, they are seeing approximately an 11-percent decrease in claim activity on hospitalization and dental this year, as well as approximately an 18-percent decrease in prescription drug benefits. It is too early to tell how this is going to wind up in the end, but those numbers are looking favorable. That helps the City keep costs down while still providing the benefits that attract employees.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that that Mayor Walters was recognized as an honorary graduate of Cuyahoga Falls High School last week, a proud 1981 graduate and nominated by Chief Davis, a 1984 graduate, and was honored for all he has done for Cuyahoga Falls.

Mr. James moved to excuse the absence of Mr. Stams for this evening, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, (10-0).

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Russ Balthis, Council President

Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council