

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole**  
**June 19, 2023**

**Members:** Mr. Balthis, Chair  
Mr. Ashton  
Mr. James  
Ms. Loza  
Mr. Miller  
Ms. Nichols-Rhodes  
Mrs. Penta  
Mr. Siegfert  
Mrs. Spinner  
Mr. Stams

Mr. Balthis called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Mr. Ashton was absent.

**Legislation Discussed**

Temp. Res. B-63

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Res. B-63**

A resolution commemorating and Celebrating Juneteenth National Independence Day on June 19, 2023, and declaring an emergency.

Mayor Walters presented Temporary Resolution B-63 to the Committee-of-the-Whole. The 117th United States Congress established June 19th as Juneteenth National Independence Day in June 2021. Thereafter, President Biden proclaimed June 19th as Juneteenth Day of Observance and called upon United States citizens to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans. The holiday commemorates and celebrates the emancipation of slaves in Galveston, Texas in June 1865, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect. The Mayor, City Administration, and City Council encourage the residents of the City of Cuyahoga Falls to join in this commemoration and celebration.

The Mayor, City Administration, and City Council as a whole will celebrate and commemorate Juneteenth National Independence Day in the City of Cuyahoga Falls today, June 19, 2023, and every year thereafter.

Mr. Balthis thanked the Mayor and the Administration for bringing this resolution forward. It is important that they, as a city, recognize this holiday. He stated that he would like to share a quote made by President Barack Obama, who said, “Juneteenth has never been a celebration of victory, or an acceptance of the way things are. Instead, it’s a celebration of progress. It’s an affirmation that despite the most painful parts of our history, things do get better and America can change.” He stated that another quote he feels speaks to Juneteenth was made by Rosa Parks, who said, “I have spent over half my life teaching love and brotherhood, and I feel that it is better to continue to try to teach or live equality and love than it would be to have hatred or prejudice. Everyone

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living together in peace and harmony and love, that's the goal we seek.” Mr. Balthis and the rest of Council requested their names be added as sponsors of Temporary Resolution B-63.

Mr. James moved to bring Temp. Ord. B-63 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Mr. James moved to dissolve out of the Committee-of-the-Whole, second by Mr. Brillhart . Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.