

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting

September 25, 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, present.
- Invocation:** Mrs. Spinner
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Siegferth
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the July 24, 2023 and September 11, 2023 Council meetings were approved as written.
- Reports and Communications:** A letter dated September 15, 2023 received from Mayor Don Walters regarding his appointment of Udaya Dhimal to the Planning Commission.

Mr. James moved to recess Council to conduct a meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Council recessed at 6:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

New Legislation
(First Reading)

Temp. Ord. B-104 (Finance)

An ordinance authorizing the procurement of Pro-Construction & Renovation, LLC to provide housing rehabilitation services and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-105 (Finance)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts with Bell Equipment for the purchase of a Leaf Vacuum Truck for use in the Street Division, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-106 (Finance)

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Supply Revolving Loan Account Agreement with the Ohio EPA on behalf of the City for planning, designing, and constructing water facilities, designating a repayment source for the loan, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-107 (Finance)

An ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's ARPA First Responder Retention Incentives Grant, making necessary appropriations therefore, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-108 (Planning and Zoning)

An ordinance accepting the recommendation of the Planning Commission for the construction of a 13,900 sq. ft. office/industrial building and three (3) self-storage buildings located at 4204 Wyoga Lake Road, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Res. B-109 (Public Affairs)

A resolution supporting Issue 17, the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Replacement Levy, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-110 (Community Development)

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with 4204 Wyoga Lake, LLC, and declaring an emergency.

Reports of Special Committees

Mr. James moved to adopt Mayor Walter's appointment of Udaya Dhimil to the Planning Commission, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Reports of Council's Standing Committees

(Third Reading)

Planning & Zoning:

No Report.

Finance & Appropriations:

Temp. Res. B-97

A resolution accepting the amounts and rates of taxation as certified by the Summit County Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies, certifying such authorization to the County Fiscal Officer, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Res. B-97, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. B-98

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Ameriseal and Restoration, LLC., for concrete and stone repairs at Brookledge Golf Club Clubhouse, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-98, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. B-99

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts, after publicly advertising for bids, for Kennedy Park field renovations, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-99, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. B-100

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts with Ohio CAT, according to law, for the purchase of a new Caterpillar compact track loader for use by Park Maintenance and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-100, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Res. B-101

A resolution accepting the recommendations of the Tax Incentive Review Council and the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council concerning Enterprise Zone and Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption agreements within the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Res. B-101, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. B-102

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts with the Thrasher Group, Inc., for professional engineering services for the improvement of Wyoga Lake Road from Steels Corners Road to Seasons Road, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-102, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Public Improvements:

No Report.

Public Affairs:

Temp. Ord. B-103

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

Ms. Loza moved to adopt Temp. Ord. B-103, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Community Development:

No Report.

Schedule of Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning:	October 2, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
Finance:	October 2, 2023, at 6:35 p.m.
Public Improvements:	Subject to Call.
Public Affairs:	October 2, 2023, at 6:40 p.m.
Community Development:	October 2, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Hoffman stated that Report 21 was put into Drop Box for this month. Under the General Fund review categories, there was not much change in Property Tax Revenue, but, in the next month's report, they will see they did receive the final second-half settlement and received those revenues recorded as such in next month's report. They should also have a good number in Admissions Tax for October. The numbers show that Blossom Music Center is up this year. They continue to have a good year in Interest Revenue. They still anticipate over doubling what they had forecasted for budget based upon the Federal Reserve's increase to short-term rates. The majority of their investment cash is in short-term rates, so they ride that market. The latest Federal Reserve decision to hold rates steady has signaled that there are some additional rate increases that they may take action on later, but, at this point, they are holding steady.

In the Street Construction and Maintenance Repair Fund one item of note is the Hotel-Motel Tax line. There is a 6.4 percent increase over last year. That signals that the hotels have been active, and is a good sign. Under Municipal Income Tax, there has been a 7.9 percent increase over last year. Under the Leisure Time Fund, they continue to see good revenues in charges for services. So far this year, they have seen a 13-percent increase in charges for services at the Natatorium.

They have been watching that facility closely that is coming back. Waterworks was essentially flat this year. The total charges for services were down 2.2 percent. There was a variation with the rain and the weather. Brookledge is continuing to do very well with a 15-percent increase in revenues this year over 2022. Downview is also doing well with a 7.3 percent increase over 2022 for charges for services.

The Finance Department and City officials went to Moody's, and the City has been reaffirmed with an AA-2 rating. The report cites management and healthy fund balances. In fact, the City's fund balances in some categories are rated as AAA, but, because of reliance on income tax as a city, if there is a negative downturn, they have some concerns there with risk to revenue. All in all, it was a really good report from Moody's. They were excited about some of the things they are doing in the city. The pricing for those bonds that they rated is happening tomorrow morning, so they have a pre-pricing call today. They don't expect to see any big surprises when that takes place.

Mr. Balthis stated that he appreciates the update on the rating agency visit. The City's rating is like its credit score as a city, and the lower it is, the more expensive it is for the City to borrow money. Mr. Balthis thanked Council for the fiscal responsibility that they have shown and their ability to keep finances in an area that, when the City is reviewed by a third party, the City is doing well and demonstrating responsibility and strong management. If they were to let that slide, it makes it more expensive to do everything from paving roads to investing in infrastructure. He appreciates all the work that the Administration has done to position them. Residents benefit greatly for that work.

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Brillhart . Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Russ Balthis, Council President

Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council