

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Sustainability, Energy & Environment Committee

April 3, 2023

Members: Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Chair
Meika Penta
Susan Spinner
Frank Stams
Adam Miller

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m. Mr. Stams and Mr. Miller were absent.

The minutes of the March 6, 2023, Sustainability, Energy & Environment Committee were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-31

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-31

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a NOPEC Energized Community Grant Agreement with Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, Inc. for energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryce Pulley, Public Utilities and Community Outreach Coordinator, presented Temporary Ordinance B-31 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”) and is eligible for the NOPEC Energized Community Grant for 2023 as provided for in the NOPEC grant program guidelines. This grant will facilitate energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects within the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

The Mayor will be authorized to enter into a NOPEC Energized Community Grant Agreement with NOPEC, Inc. for energy efficiency or energy infrastructure projects. The Mayor, Director of Public Service, Director of Law and other necessary City officials will be authorized to provide such other information and to execute such other documents and do all other actions as are necessary for and incidental to carrying out the requirements of this ordinance and the terms of the Grant Agreement.

Mr. Pulley stated that the City has been granted \$36,409. It has been used for the solar tables located downtown that have been well received by the public. In the past, they have used these funds for an electric vehicle charger installed at Summit DD. With the funds for this year, they are going to use them for solar panels to be installed on top of the new Electric Building.

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Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that each year, these funds have been around \$50,000. The Green Committees around the city are discussing what the best uses are and they have made great use of the funds so far.

Mr. Gorbach asked what specific electric items are these solar panels going to produce electric for in the Electric Building. Mr. Pulley stated that it is going to offset the power that the building is using. Mr. Gorbach asked how many panels will be installed and how many kilowatt hours will be produced per panel. Mr. Pulley stated that he is not aware of the number of panels, but they are 83-kilowatt panels. He stated that he will follow-up and find out exactly how many panels there will be.

Mr. Anthony Zumbo, Service Director, stated that he doesn't know specifically how much energy these solar panels are going to generate, but they will be able to provide 50 percent of the power for the office and the warehouse located in the Electric Building. Mr. Gorbach stated that he is excited about this because this is something that he plans to do at his home this year.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that the new building is going to be much more energy efficient than previous buildings.

Mrs. Spinner moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-31 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Penta. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.