

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

January 21, 2025

Members: Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Chair
Mike Brillhart, Vice Chair
Meika Penta, Brian Ashton, Joe Siegfert

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-1

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-1

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Flock Group, Inc. for the use and maintenance of Flock Cameras for use by the city's safety forces, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Norfolk presented Temporary Ordinance B-1 to Council. To promote the general safety and welfare of its citizens, the City contracted with Flock Group Inc. in 2023 as the provider of cameras for use by the City's safety forces. The cameras will continue to be placed at critical intersections to assist the City's safety forces in enforcement and investigation.

The Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Flock Group, Inc. for the use and maintenance of Flock Cameras, to increase public safety. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the General Fund, Police Department, Line Item Other Operations.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that it is very impressive what the Flock cameras are helping with police work and with the safety of residents.

Chief Norfolk stated that the Flock cameras have been an amazing tool for the police, particularly because of the network built out with neighboring jurisdictions and communities. They use it multiple times a day. The cameras are placed around the city and around adjoining cities and these cameras work together to capture vehicle license plates and vehicle information. He then gave an example of a case where a young woman was threatening self-harm and was found through Flock cameras. She was nearing hypothermia, along with being in danger of self-harm, and they were able to get her medical care. They would not have been able to find that person without that resource, because she had dumped her cell phone. It also comes in handy for criminal investigations in the city and neighboring jurisdictions. They have been able to use it as evidence and to get quite a few convictions.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked what two communities have just added Flock cameras. Chief Norfolk stated that Tallmadge and Stow have added them in the last couple months. Akron has them and

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the Summit County Sheriff's office has put them throughout the county. The network in Summit County is growing, which is helpful to law enforcement.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that this will be \$156,000 for a two-year period then it a recurring charge of \$78,000 per year coming from the General Fund Police, Other Operations.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-1 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Penta. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.