

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee**

January 21, 2025

Members: Rachel Loza, Chair
Brian Ashton, Vice Chair
Jerry James, Frank Stams, Gary DeRemer

Ms. Loza called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. Mr. Stams was absent.

The minutes of the November 18, 2024 and December 16, 2024 Public Affairs Committee meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-4

Temp. Ord. B-5

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-4

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control File, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Norfolk presented Temporary Ordinance B-4 to Council. Site-specific traffic control regulations of the City are established and maintained in the “Traffic Control File,” a document established and maintained by the Chief of Police pursuant to Chapter 305 of the Codified Ordinances. Section 305.02 of said Chapter requires that amendments to the Traffic Control File be made only through legislation passed by City Council.

Upon the recommendation of the Traffic Committee, the Traffic Control File is hereby amended as follows:

Amending the Traffic Control File to include the following items from The Glens subdivision:

- Stop signs on Scion Lane at Front Street
- Stop sign on Paolo Lane at Chestnut Boulevard
- Stop sign on Paolo Lane at 2nd Street
- Stop sign on Stock Court (private alley) at Front Street
- Install no parking signs on both sides of Scion Lane and Paolo Lane
- Install 25 MPH speed limit signs on Scion Lane and Paola Lane

Amending the Traffic Control File by making Main Street a 2-way traffic from Sill to Prospect and current angled parking striping to be restriped to accommodate this change.

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The Chief of Police will be authorized to note in the Traffic Control File the proper legends. The Mayor or his designee will be authorized to cause the installation or removal of the proper signage reflecting the above amendments.

Chief Norfolk stated that, on November 25th, the Traffic Control Committee met. At that time, Ms. Loza presented a recommendation making Main Street 2-way traffic from Sill Avenue to Prospect and current angled parking striping to be restriped to accommodate this change. After the committee looked at this proposal, they found that it would be beneficial for the safety of residents and travelers on Sill Avenue coming out of Newberry Street and approved the request.

Ms. Loza stated that she presented this on behalf of some residents in her ward, so they will be grateful to know that they can safely make a turn out of their area without the issue of not being able to see by the hill. Chief Norfolk stated that there were some site obstructions. There were also amendments made to the Traffic Control File to update the traffic file pertaining to the Glens Subdivision.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-4 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (4-0).

Temp. Ord. B-5

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts with the Ohio Attorney General Collection Enforcement section for purposes of providing delinquent collection services for the Cuyahoga Falls Mayor's Court, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Cathy Meacham, Clerk of the Mayor's Court, presented Temporary Ordinance B-5 to Council. The City finds it necessary to retain the collection services of the Ohio Attorney General Collection Enforcement Section for assistance in the collection of past due unpaid fines and court costs for the Cuyahoga Falls Mayor's Court.

The Mayor will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, without competitive bidding, with the Ohio Attorney General Collection Enforcement Section to provide legal and collection services without the necessity of public bids to assist in the collection of past due unpaid fines and court costs for the Cuyahoga Falls Mayor's Court.

Ms. Meacham stated that the Mayor's Court has a number of cases that are past due that are estimated at about \$66,000. The reason for the legislation is the Attorney General's office requires it as an Exhibit B for the agreement that the Mayor would need to sign. They will submit the information to the Attorney General who will notify past-due accounts. They also have the ability to offset against tax refunds, lottery, racino, casino and sports betting, so that helps as well. If sending letters fail, they may turn it over to a third-party collector. After the third-party collector, it can go to special counsel, but that is usually done in higher-dollar amounts like tax cases. The funds that they collect are direct-deposited into the City's account. The cases have to be within the last 10 years and they have to be over \$100. The Attorney General charges 10 percent and that is

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added to the amount owed and is passed on to the debtor. The other fees added to the total amount are also paid by the debtor. They will not charge or collect interest. That is an option that they declined. Everything is done electronically. They have the ability to log in and check to see who has paid, so they can note their accounts.

Ms. Loza asked if current collections are now done internally. Ms. Meacham stated that what they do now is when someone has missed a payment, they go to on a pay plan. There are a lot of people that missed their payment a couple years ago, and they now they need to renew their plates and then they come in. They see the magistrate and get on a pay plan. Ms. Loza stated that this costs next to nothing and helps the Mayor's Court.

Mrs. Spinner asked if there is an average amount in outstanding fees. Ms. Meacham stated that most of them are between \$100 and \$200. They do have people that went on pay plans for OVI's. Those tend to be \$400 or \$500.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-5 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (4-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.