

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public & Industrial Improvements Committee

February 3, 2025

Members: Meika Penta, Chair
Frank Stams, Vice Chair
Gary DeRemer, Jerry James, Rachel Loza

Mrs. Penta called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the January 21, 2025 Public Improvements Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-12

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-12

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the annual resurfacing and/or repair of various streets as described in Exhibit 'A' attached hereto, in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts for pavement preservation on various streets within the city, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance B-12 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the resurfacing and/or repair of various streets as described in Exhibit 'A' attached to the ordinance in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for pavement preservation on various streets within the City. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for the same from the Capital Projects Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay, and from the Storm Water Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Demasi stated that this is the annual ordinance allowing the City to resurface various streets as needed in 2025. They plan on beginning the bidding of this project on March 7th and open bids on March 25th of this year. In past years, the ODOT Asphalt Placing Index, which is used to predict asphalt prices, is about 10 percent lower than this time last year and 30 percent lower than its all-time high in August of 2022, so they are hopeful they would be able to pave all the streets in the exhibit. Even though the petroleum-based binder is only 20 percent of the asphalt mix, they are always conscious of the volatility of the price in the mix and its cost. Late last year, they received a notice that the aggregate or stone which makes up the bulk of the asphalt mixture would see a 10-percent increase in 2025. They propose the streets to be paved as listed in the exhibit. This list was prepared by his office in consultation with the Street Department. It is based on the

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ratings of the street which were prepared by Pavement Management Group in 2025. Pavement Management Group is a company the City hired first in 2018 to rate the streets. They rate them in even years and look at a total of 20 different distress categories, including cracking, patches, rutting, potholes and waffling. They used the results of last year's rating for this and next year's list.

Mr. Demasi stated that some highlights for this year are projected lane miles at about 24 lane miles. That will be the most lane miles since about the mid-1990, which is when the income tax was increased from one and a half percent to two percent specifically for this type of work. This year, they are also going to introduce fibers to increase the durability and help cracking and rutting. Many of the roads in the older part of the City are over 100 years old, so, long term, they are looking to hopefully rebuild those streets. That's an expensive endeavor and something they have not done since 2015. In the meantime, they are looking at ways like fiber to lengthen the lifespan of the roads. In addition, they will be introducing preservation techniques. The roads that they paved last year are going to go through a process called rejuvenation, where they spread a sealer to hopefully extend the life of the roads. Silver Lake Avenue is a road that they have been holding off on for a few years because of the major project with the school. With that project coming close to its conclusion in the next year or two, it would now be a good opportunity to pave it. This year, they are still going to hold off on paving 13th Street. It is bad, but it will just get beat up if they paved it now, so they are going to wait until that project is done before paving it. The average age of the streets to be paved this year is about 20 and a half years. He is excited that they have gotten that many years out of the streets, but it shows the age of the street inventory is getting up there.

Mrs. Penta stated that she definitely understands waiting to pave 13th Street until the school project is completed. With the construction, Silver Lake Avenue is becoming extremely busy. She represents Ward 3, but gets calls about Silver Lake Avenue, so it is nice that the preservation will be in that area. She tries to drive around to each of the streets on the exhibit to see what is being done, but also having a map of everything is extremely helpful. She is glad that Valley Road is on the list. Besides State Road, it is one of the busier streets in Ward 3. The budget is continually being increased, which is wonderful. The Administration is always trying to add more money in that fund to get more roads done. Again, they have it rated every other year and try to do their best to try to cost effectively improve the roads.

Mr. Stams asked if any of the other ingredients in the asphalt are imported from Mexico or Canada. Mr. Demasi stated not that he is aware. The limestone comes from Sandusky and the asphalt is also local.

Mr. Stams stated that with the extreme, sub-zero weather, the roads have become more beaten up. Mr. Demasi stated that that is something that they have noticed as well. They went two or three solid weeks with below-freezing temperatures and that has a great effect on the older roads and some of the roads that were paved last year.

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Mr. Stams stated that he is going to make his plea now to increase the resurfacing budget next year even more because that is single biggest call that he receives as Ward 8 Council. He would imagine the roads in Ward 8, old Northampton, may even exceed some of the road resurfacing that was 20 years old in the rest of Cuyahoga Falls.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes thanked Mr. Demasi. This is exciting every year, but she loves the idea that they are using preservation techniques. That shows that the City doesn't do the same thing all the time because that is how it has always been done. They are always looking forward and making better decisions for the future, and she appreciates that.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-12 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.