

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

**July 28, 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 6:33 p.m. All members were present.

**Legislation Discussed**

Temp. Ord. B-64

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. B-64**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with KJ Excavation, for the maintenance and repair of the City's storm water system, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Russ Kring, Water Utilities Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance B-64 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with KJ Excavation, for the maintenance and repair of the City's storm water system during 2025. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Storm Drainage Utility Fund, Other Operations, and Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Kring stated that they would like to be able to use KJ Excavation to make storm water repairs that they would usually do in-house. They have been busy with meter work, so they would like to hire it out to get it done in a timely manner.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that KJ Excavation has done a lot of work for the City. They are close to the \$75,000 Council approval threshold.

Mr. Kring stated that there are several sinkholes in the city that they would like to have them to repair. Third Street and Falls Avenue, 9th Street and Sackett Avenue and Chestnut Boulevard and 13th Street are some of the ones. Each of them would be a one-day project.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that, as far as the budget sheet, the total estimated cost is going to be \$210,000. This is coming from Storm Drainage Utility Fund, Other Operations, for \$10,000 and then \$100,000 from Capital Outlay. There has also been some savings from other projects like the Monroe Street project. Mr. Kring stated that they have had a couple of projects that they are not going to get to design this year, so they will push them back to next year and use the design money as savings.

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Mr. Balthis asked if Mr. Kring would go through that process and what residents can expect if they are driving by an area where one of these repairs were made. Mr. Kring stated that it depends on the type of repair. If it is a sanitary or storm water, they are able to compact that when they backfill, so those can be patched relatively soon after they are done. If it is water service or a water main break, they are not able to compact those for several reasons, one reason being is they do not want to cause new breaks. They back fill it and let it sit and become compacted naturally for at least a couple months and then Engineering, through the Utility Patch Program, will come back, cut it out and put a permanent patch in after it is sufficiently settled.

Mrs. Spinner stated that she knew about Falls Avenue and Third Street, and the other two she is just hearing of, but these are all in Ward 2. She asked why that was. Mr. Kring stated that it is, for the most part, the oldest sewer in the city. Mrs. Spinner stated that she appreciates that they are going to be taken care of.

Mr. Mark Wilkerson, 2467 Sixth Street, Cuyahoga Falls, stated that he is disgusted with all these potholes, not so much in Cuyahoga Falls, but it is bad in Akron. He actually hit one that was about two-feet deep and popped off his taillight, and his front end is going to have to be realigned. They are saying they cannot backfill that because of the water pipes. Five minutes after they leave, there are thousands of cars and trucks going over it, so it is still being compacted. Mr. Kring stated that if it is a water repair, they just go back and fill the top course or the temporary patch that they put on to make sure it is semi-flush. While it is still being compacted by vehicles, if they were to compact it with the compactor, the pressure would cause the line to break because they are so brittle. Mr. Wilkerson asked why they do not backfill with sand. Mr. Kring stated that they do use sand and then limestone because it holds up to the traffic better.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. There were none.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-64 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Penta. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.