

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

July 20, 2026

Members: Rachel Loza, Chair
Brian Ashton, Vice Chair
Gary DeRemer, Frank Stams, Marie Willis-Guarneri

Ms. Loza called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m. Mr. Stams was absent.

The minutes of the June 15, 2026 Public Affairs meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-56

Temp. Ord. A-57

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-56

An ordinance to approve the current replacement pages to the Cuyahoga Falls Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Janet Ciotola, Law Director, presented Temporary Ordinance A-56 to Council. Certain provisions within the Codified Ordinances should be amended to conform with current State law as required by the Ohio Constitution. Various ordinances of a general and permanent nature have been passed by Council which should be included in the Codified Ordinances. The City has entered into a contract with the Walter H. Drane Company to prepare and publish such revision which is before Council.

Ms. Ciotola stated that, on an annual basis, the City contracts with the Walter H. Drane Company to complete the Municipal Code updates that include ordinances passed by City Council that are part of the codified ordinances, along with any changes that the Ohio Legislature makes to the Criminal Code. Although the City has home rule on criminal matters, they must follow the State. There has to be consistency and this is the reason they update the code on an annual basis. This will ensure that the police and prosecutors are working with the most up-to-date versions of the law. A complete list of this year's updates are contained in the Ordinance Section 2. Ms. Ciotola thanked Ms. Grace Edwards, her office manager, because she painstakingly went through all of these updates and compared them to their codified ordinances to make sure they were consistent with state law. They are also available for viewing in their entirety on the American Legal Publishing Code Library.

Ms. Loza thanked Ms. Edwards and everyone in the Law Department for all of their hard work in keeping things on the straight and narrow.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ordinance A-56 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer. Motion passed (4-0).

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Temp. Ord. A-57

An ordinance amending Chapter 353 “Parking Meters” of the Cuyahoga Falls Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Janet Ciotola, Law Director, presented Temporary Ordinance A-57 to Council. Ms. Ciotola stated that when the improvements along South Front Street began, they wanted to ensure a uniform approach and appearance for parking meters throughout the downtown. The Information Service Department and Finance Department began researching parking meter vendors that could provide meters that matched those currently installed throughout Downtown. After evaluating several companies, it was discovered that vendors have been phasing out the traditional coin-operated parking meters and the industry is transitioning to app-based parking technology. Maintaining existing meters has become increasingly difficult. It is hard to find spare parts or technicians that still work with these type of meters. As a result, maintaining the current system is no longer a practical solution and they are transitioning as many communities already have. This ordinance updates the City’s parking meter ordinances by incorporating language that recognizes and authorizes the use of mobile parking at mobile payment app system parking meters, now defined as a device. The ordinance also no longer specifies the times to put money in the parking meter. It does, however, allow for the Safety Director to offer free parking on holidays or during events where the City has traditionally allowed free parking. In making these changes, the Community Development Department talked to and received input from local businesses. While opinions varied and no single approach meets every business’s need, there was consistent recognition that regular parking turnover is important for supporting customer access and business revenue and this change in the ordinance is intended to address that concern. The final major update that was made to the ordinance will also allow Community Service Officers to enforce the parking meter regulations. It will provide for more consistent enforcement, which was also another key concern raised by local businesses.

Ms. Loza asked if at the time that they provide the new parking meters down on South Front Street will the parking meters on this side of town also take place. Mr. Joshua Kington, Director of Information Services, stated that the meters that exist currently on Front Street will remain there. They will not be replaced. They will still have to pay by app in those spots though they will not be able to actually pay with coin or credit card. Those slots will be covered with a QR code with instructions on how to pay. The posts will remain in place so they can continue to do the holiday decorations that they have done in the last several years. There will not be posts on South Front Street. There will be options in the app where there is saved information in there, which will make it very easy. If someone does not have the app and does not want to download it, they can scan the QR code and it will take them to a place to enter in the license plate and payment information so they can call in a toll-free number to make payment.

Mrs. Cebula stated asked about who will be in possession of data with people's vehicle information. She has used this system in other cities and it is a little bit intrusive by taking photos of cars and using personal information to send text messages. Mr. Kington stated that, to his knowledge, that is not how this system works. They are partnering with company called Park

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Mobile. They are not going to own any of this data. It will be on their servers, but he will look into that. Ms. Ciotola stated that she does not believe it authorizes photos, but they have the contract and she will send her a copy of it. Mr. Kington also stated that there will be a huge rollout, so the public knows that this is coming. In addition, there will be a grace period where people will get a warning so that people will get accustomed to this.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ordinance A-57 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer. Motion passed (4-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.