

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

**July 20, 2026**

**Members:** Brian Ashton, Chair  
Gary DeRemer, Vice Chair  
Nikki Cebula, Rachel Loza, Marie Willis-Guarneri

Mr. Ashton called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the March 16, 2026 and March 23, 2026 Public Improvements Committee were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. A-53

Temp. Res. A-54

Temp. Res. A-55

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. A-53**

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts, with Ingersoll Landscape, for the design and installation of landscaping and a new staircase on 2223 Front Street (Parcel #0218225), and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Sara Kline, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance A-53 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is committed to the strategic investment of community resources to support the ongoing revitalization of Downtown Cuyahoga Falls. Several key pedestrian and traffic corridors connecting Front Street and Riverfront Parkway—incorporating the RiverLoop initiative—require aesthetic and structural enhancements to match the high-quality design standards of the surrounding downtown district. Upgrading these connection points will enhance public safety, promote accessibility, and further the City's goal of attracting and retaining visitors, patrons, and residents to vibrant local businesses and community spaces. Ingersoll Landscape has previously completed several landscape design and installation projects on Front Street and in the surrounding downtown district. Retaining Ingersoll Landscape for design and installation of this connecting corridor ensures continuity, efficiency, and utilization of their knowledge, which is important for matching the design of the surrounding areas.

The Parks and Recreation Board will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts with Ingersoll Landscape, for the design and installation of landscaping and a new staircase on 2223 Front Street (Parcel #0218225). The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay and the Electric Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mrs. Kline stated that this is the vacant plot of land next to the Vacancy Bar on Front Street. It has a set of sandstone steps that are very worn down that go in a sharp angle from Front Street down

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to below. This plan would install graduated steps. It would also install an ADA seating area at the top. It would tie in to the new deck that the Vacancy Bar has constructed over that part of that area and provide a pathway between the upper level on Front Street to the lower level where the River Loop and the improvements along Riverfront Parkway are being made. Ingersoll Landscaping has produced a great design. It will enhance safety through lighting and definitely improve the aesthetics and, most importantly, improve the safety.

Mr. Ashton asked if there will be a handicapped improvement. Ms. Kline stated that they are going to have an area at the top level that will accommodate seating and be an area for people who have any sort of mobility or equipment needs that require them to not go down steep steps. There will be steps that are appropriate in grade, and then there will be benches along the way. It will not enable someone with a wheelchair or a stroller or any other kind of mobility device to go down the steps because there is not going to be a ramp, but they will be able to access the lower part of the River Loop through other accessible areas that are being built.

Mr. Brillhart asked when the project will begin. Ms. Kline stated that after they receive approval from City Council, they will be able to get a better idea of when Ingersoll Landscaping can start the work.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked if Ingersoll Landscaping plans on using native deep-rooted plants. Ms. Kline stated that there will be very few plants in this area. From a maintenance perspective, they try to be mindful of what they are asking their internal maintenance crews of all departments to do. While there will be some plantings, it is mostly going to be hardscape, but she will approve of the plants that are in there.

Mr. DeRemer asked what about the steps next to the art building. Ms. Kline stated that the steps are currently closed. That area has been in constant conversation and flux because of proposed development plans. They are closed off right now with some barricades in conjunction with the Community Development Department and the Mayor's office and eventually with Council's blessing, what happens there will be a complete redevelopment, including eliminating the steps next to the Art Center.

Mr. Ashton asked for the price of the project. Ms. Kline stated that is \$186,344.34

Ms. Loza moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-53 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer. Motion passed (5-0).

**Temp. Res. A-54**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission for replacement of water mains on Marcia Blvd, High Point Rd to 26th St, 28th St, Marcia Blvd to the cul-de-sac, 27th St, Marcia Blvd to Broad Blvd, 26th St, and Broad Blvd to Sackett Ave, and declaring an emergency.

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Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Resolution A-54 to Council. The Ohio Public Works Commission (“OPWC”), through its State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program, provides financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has identified the need, plans for, and proposes a capital improvement to public infrastructure, to wit: replacement of 6” water mains on Marcia Boulevard, Highpoint Road to 26th Street, 28th Street, Marcia Boulevard to the cul-de-sac, 27th Street, Marcia Boulevard to Broad Boulevard, 26th Street, and Broad Boulevard to Sackett Avenue. The infrastructure improvement hereinabove described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC program.

The Mayor will be authorized to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan from the Ohio Public Commission for the purpose of supporting the capital improvements consisting of replacement of 6” water mains on Marcia Boulevard, Highpoint Road to 26th Street, 28th Street, Marcia Boulevard to the cul-de-sac, 27th Street, Marcia Boulevard to Broad Boulevard, 26th Street, and Broad Boulevard to Sackett Avenue, by means of the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Mayor will be authorized to enter into agreements as may be necessary to apply for and accept the financial assistance mentioned herein. The Clerk will be directed to prepare and transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Public Works Commission.

Mr. Demasi stated that the designs of the replacement of several water lines in this area of town on Marcia Boulevard, 26th Street, 27th Street and 28th Street, are 100-percent complete. The replacement of these lines are listed in the current five-year Capital Budget. They spoke with the Water Department and thought it would be a good idea to apply for funding through the OPWC, Ohio Public Works Commission for these projects. These water lines in aggregate are estimated at about \$1.2 million and they will apply for one-half of that or \$600,000. The OPWC applications are due on September 11. This project should score similar to the Oakwood Drive Water Line Project that they applied for a few years ago and received about \$700,000 in funding. Applicants should receive the preliminary scores by November 4th of this year and then final scores by December 18th. As they go through the budget, they will budget accordingly.

Mr. Ashton stated that they certainly appreciate the Department's efforts to save the taxpayers money and look for alternative forms of paying for this.

Ms. Loza moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-54 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer. Motion passed (5-0).

**Temp. Res. A-55**

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission for the improvement of State Road, from Quick Road to Boulder Boulevard, and declaring an emergency.

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Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Resolution A-55 to Council. The Ohio Public Works Commission (“OPWC”), through its State Capital Improvement Program and Local Transportation Improvement Program, provides financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has identified the need, plans for, and proposes a capital improvement to public infrastructure, to wit: PID 121863, SUM State Road from Quick Road to Boulder Boulevard. The infrastructure improvement hereinabove described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC program.

The Mayor will be authorized to apply for and accept financial assistance in the form of a grant or loan from the Ohio Public Commission for the purpose of supporting the capital improvement consisting of removal and replacement of pavement, signage, light poles, and storm sewer as needed, to reconstruct the roadway of State Road, from Quick Road to Boulder Boulevard, by means of the State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and/or Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission. The Mayor will be authorized to enter into agreements as may be necessary to apply for and accept the financial assistance mentioned herein. The Clerk will be directed to prepare and transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Public Works Commission.

Mr. Demasi stated that the design for the improvements from Quick Road to Boulder Boulevard is about 80 percent complete. As a reminder, the \$8.7 million project will add a two-way left-turn lane, a new traffic signal at the State Road-Quick Road interchange and extend new sidewalks along the west side of State Road. A couple of years ago, they secured a \$6 million grant from AMATS towards this project and, at this time, they are seeking additional funding from OPWC to help offset their local share. They are targeting around \$750,000 to apply for this project. This project should score similar to the Wyoga Lake Road project where they ended up only paying 12 percent of the construction cost. Applications are due on September 11th and they should know by the end of the year.

Ms. Loza moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-55 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.