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

October 5, 2026

Members: Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Chair
Mike Brillhart, Vice Chair
Brian Ashton, Joe Siegferth, Susan Spinner

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed
Temp. Ord. A-72
Temp. Ord. A-76
Temp. Ord. A-77

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-72
An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to execute a modification of Contract No. 9464 with Spano Bros. Construction, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance A-72 to council. Under the authority of Ordinance 94-2025, the City, after competitive bidding, entered into Contract No. 9464 with Spano Bros. Construction, for the purposes of executing the 2026 Sidewalk, Curb/Ramp & Drive Approach Replacement Program. It is necessary to adjust the unit quantities of labor and material in the contract beyond what was originally estimated, in order to meet the needs of the City in executing the 2026 Sidewalk, Curb/Ramp & Drive Approach Replacement Program, which will increase the estimated total contract price by an amount not exceeding $120,000.00.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a modification of Contract No. 9464 with Spano Bros. Construction, in an amount not to exceed $120,000.00. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same, from the Capital Project Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Demasi stated that the City seeks to add $120,000 to the existing $295,758 Sidewalk and Drive Approach Project contract. The additional funding would support work at 52 more properties in 2026, increasing the total from 175 to 227 locations while remaining within the approved budget.

The modification would also fund public-benefit projects, including a sidewalk connecting Hollywood and Alameda Avenues to Linden Park and curb and sidewalk improvements on Sackett Street between Front and Second Streets that would address a stormwater issue.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes noted that the cost-sharing program encourages property owners to complete needed work. The City typically completes 150 to 170 locations annually, completed 257 last year, and expects to complete 227 this year if the modification is approved—or 175 without it. A location may include one block or an entire frontage, regardless of the number of replacements required.

Mr. Demasi added that increased funding and City Council support have reduced typical wait times from two or three years to approximately one year. More than 50 locations are already scheduled for next year, and interested property owners are encouraged to contact the City.

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. A-72 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Spinner. Motion passed (5-0).

Temp. Ord. A-76
An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract or contracts, with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc. for the professional services necessary to manage the City's risk management and insurance program and for the purchase of public entity insurance coverages, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-76 to Council. The Director of Finance will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc., for the professional services necessary to manage the City's risk management and insurance program, including purchase of comprehensive public entity insurance coverages, for a period of one year. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from funds properly appropriated to the various departments of the City for these purposes, according to an apportionment of costs as between the departments.

Mr. Hoffman stated that the City maintains insurance coverage for property, automobiles, crime, and cyber risks. Because the policies renew on October 22, the ordinance required prompt consideration. The City has worked with local firm Wichert Insurance for more than 30 years. Wichert's public-sector experience and network of carriers enable it to compare coverage options for the City.

The renewal premiums are 5.9 percent higher than in 2025, primarily because of increased property and equipment values and the addition of vehicles. Most category rates remain unchanged. Historical comparisons dating to 2019 were provided, with earlier records available in Dropbox.

In response to Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Mr. Hoffman clarified that the increase reflects higher insured values and additional assets, not an increase in premium for the same assets as in the 2026 contract. He also stated that Wichert is compensated through commissions based on the City's premiums rather than through a flat fee.

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. A-76 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Spinner. Motion passed (5-0).

Temp. Ord. A-77
An ordinance authorizing the Director Of Public Service to enter into an agreement with the Village of Silver Lake, Ohio for the continued provision of water services for an additional term, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Anthony Zumbo, Service Director, presented Temporary Ordinance A-77 to Council. The Director of Public Service is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Village of Silver Lake, Ohio for the continued provision of water services for an additional period of fifty (50) years.

The Mayor, Director of Public Service, Director of Law, Director of Finance and other necessary City officials are authorized to provide such information and to execute such other documents and do all other actions as are necessary for and incidental to carrying out the requirements of this ordinance and Agreement. The Director of Law is hereby authorized to make such revisions or modifications which are not materially adverse to the City.

Mr. Zumbo stated that Temporary Ordinance A-77 resulted from negotiations with the Village of Silver Lake over a new water-service contract. With the current agreement expiring May 31, 2028, the parties negotiated terms to retain Silver Lake as a customer.

Under the proposed 50-year contract, effective January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2076, the City would supply up to 600,000 gallons per day. Silver Lake would pay the same tiered rates as customers within the City of Cuyahoga Falls and would maintain its own infrastructure as a bulk customer.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes emphasized the City's commitment to being a good neighbor and responsible steward of public funds. Mr. Zumbo noted that the City has served Silver Lake since at least 1937.

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. A-77 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Spinner. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.