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

September 21, 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 6:49 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the July 20, 2026 Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed
Temp. Ord. A-63
Temp. Ord. A-64
Temp. Ord. A-65

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-63
An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to execute a modification of Contract No. 9480 with The Ohio Drilling Company, and declaring an emergency.

Under the authority of Ordinance 26-2026, the City, after competitive bidding, entered into Contract No. 9480 with The Ohio Drilling Company for the purposes of cleaning and repairing Wells #7, #16, and #21.The recommended repairs were not known prior to the execution of Contract No. 9480 and are deemed necessary for proper functioning. In order to return the wells to service, it is necessary to adjust the total contract price by an amount not to exceed $31,120.00.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a modification of Contract No. 9480 with The Ohio Drilling Company, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $31,120. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same, from the Water Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay, and the Water Fund, Line Item Other Operations.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes reported that Water Utilities Superintendent Russ Kring was unavailable, but Ms. Teresa Hazlett, Deputy Service Director, was present to answer questions. The City services three of its 15 water wells each year. During this year's inspection, a camera revealed that Well 16's casing and screen were beyond repair and required replacement, adding $31,120 to the Ohio Drilling contract. The total cost is now $263,476. The 80-foot well will receive a slightly smaller casing and screen inserted through the existing structure to restore the barrier between the gravel pack and the water.

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-63 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Spinner. Motion passed (5-0).

Temp. Ord. A-64
An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board and/or Director of Public Service to enter into a cooperative procurement agreement with The Interlocal Purchasing System ("TIPS"), waiving competitive bidding for the purchase of products, services, materials, and supplies purchased through cooperative purchase agreements administered by TIPS, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Sarah Kline, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance A-64 to Council. Section 2 of the City Charter, adopted pursuant to Art. XVIII, Sections 3 and 7 of the Ohio Constitution, authorizes this Council to make exception to the competitive bidding procedures set forth in the Revised Code. TIPS is a national purchasing cooperative offering competitively solicited contracts to education, government, and nonprofits. Membership in TIPS is free with no purchasing obligation or liability.

The Parks and Recreation Board and/or Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a cooperative procurement agreement with The Interlocal Purchasing System ("TIPS"), and waiving competitive bidding for the purchase of products, services, materials, and supplies purchased through cooperative purchase agreements administered by TIPS.

Ms. Kline stated that the consortium would expand the City's purchasing options. It was identified while researching vendors for the natatorium roof and downtown pavilion, but all City departments could use it.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes explained that the City already uses other consortiums, including Sourcewell for playground equipment and OhioBuys for athletic products. This consortium would provide another source for public supplies at competitive prices.

Mr. Stams asked Ms. Kline to explain how consortiums work. She stated that they research, certify, and guarantee competitive pricing, allowing public entities to bypass the standard bidding process while still conducting due diligence. This can provide greater flexibility, reduce administrative time, and lower costs. Mr. Stams asked whether the consortium charges a fee. Ms. Kline said she was unaware of any fee for this consortium. Ms. Nichols-Rhodes confirmed that there is no membership fee, purchasing obligation, or liability.

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-64 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Spinner. Motion passed (5-0).

Temp. Ord. A-65
An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Kenmore Construction Company, Inc., for fire hydrant replacements on Bath Road, and declaring an emergency.

Four fire hydrants on Bath Road are out of service and the depth of the hydrants require special equipment for a company to replace. Kenmore Construction Company, Inc., is equipped to dig at the abnormal depth required to replace these hydrants. Contract quotes were initially under the competitive bidding threshold. Due to unforeseen conditions, the threshold increased thereby requiring Council approval.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Kenmore Construction Company, Inc., for fire hydrant replacements on Bath Road in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Water Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that the estimated cost to repair four hydrants is $86,349.23. Although the original quote was below the threshold requiring Council approval, additional work increased the cost to approximately $86,000, so Council authorization is now required. Five hydrants on Bath Road are 12 to 13 feet deep and could not be serviced by the City. Kenmore Construction is completing the work. Ms. Hazlett explained that the hydrants were originally installed when the County owned the water line and are deeper than usual because the road slopes toward Mudbrook.

Mr. Stams asked whether the work was being purchased through a consortium because there was no competitive bidding. Ms. Hazlett explained that the City had obtained quotes, but additional work discovered during Kenmore's project increased the cost. Because Kenmore was already on-site and Bath Road was open for hydrant repairs and installation, using another contractor would have been more expensive. The City also wanted to complete the work before the road was paved later this year.

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-65 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Spinner. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.