

CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

October 26, 2020

Call to Order: Mr. Brillhart at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Balthis, present; Mr. Brillhart, present; Mr. Gorbach, present; Mr. Iula, present; Mr. James, present; Ms. Loza, present; Mr. Miller, present; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, present; Mrs. Penta, present; Mrs. Spinner, present; Mr. Stams, present.

Invocation: Mrs. Spinner

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 12, 2020 Council and Committee-of-the-Whole meetings were approved as written.

Reports and Communications: A Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding Permit No. 0387064 to BF Cuyahoga Falls, LLC, dba BurgerFi, 2002 Portage Trail & Patios, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44223.

A Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding Permit No. 1587903 to Cocktail Ice Bar, LLC, dba Chestnut Beer Garden, 503 Chestnut Boulevard, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221 from BCA Taverns, Inc., dba Chestnut Beer Garden, 503 Chestnut Boulevard, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221.

A Notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding Permit No. 99899170005 to Tyronna Young, 550 Howe Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221. from 8 Point, LLC, dba 8 Point Bistro & Patio, 2000 Brittain Road, Suite 215, Akron, Ohio, 44310.

A Letter from Mayor Walters regarding his appointment of Marcia Liikala to the Library Board.

Mr. Gorbach moved to recess Council for a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to be held, second by Mr. James. Roll Call: Mr. Balthis, Yes, Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mr. Gorbach, Yes; Mr. Iula, Yes; Mr. James, Yes; Ms. Loza, Yes; Mr. Miller, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mrs. Penta, Yes; Mrs. Spinner, Yes; Mr. Stams, Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Council recessed at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened at 6:38 p.m.

Report of Special Committees

Mr. Gorbach moved to approve Marcia Liikala's appointment to the Library Board, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

New Legislation
(First Reading)

Temp. Ord. A-75 (Planning & Zoning)

An ordinance accepting the Planning Commission recommendation for the construction of an 11,952 square foot private gymnasium on Parcel 02-12833 on Bailey Road, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-76 (Planning & Zoning)

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into an option and ground lease agreement with TowerCo 2013 LLC for the lease of property for the future construction of wireless communication facilities and equipment, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-77 (Finance)

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Silver Lake for the acquisition, installation, and operation of a Consolidated Computer-Aided Dispatch System to the Village of Silver Lake, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-78 (Finance)

An ordinance establishing annual appropriations of money for the current expenses, capital expenditures and other expenses of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021 and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-79 (Public Affairs)

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Downtown Cuyahoga Falls Partnership, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining signage for a historical walking trail in Downtown Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Reports of Council's Standing Committees
(Third Reading)

Planning & Zoning

No Report.

Finance & Appropriations:

No Report.

Public Improvements:

Temp. Res. A-73

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 6" and 10" water

mains in Loomis Avenue, Magnolia Avenue, Murray Street, and Ritchie Street, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Res. A-73, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Temp. Ord. A-74

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of overhead and underground power lines on Feeder 503, Feeder 504, and Feeder 702 to prepare for 12.5kv conversion, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-74, second by Mr. Gorbach. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Public Affairs:

No Report.

Community Development:

No Report.

Schedule of Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning:	November 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.
Finance:	November 2, 2020, November 9, 2020, November 23, 2020, and December 7, 2020 at 6:35 p.m.
Public Improvements:	Subject to Call.
Public Affairs:	November 2, 2020, at 6:40 p.m.
Community Development:	Subject to Call.

Miscellaneous Business

Ms. Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director, stated that she wanted to review with Council the third quarterly report they received from her department. The City had two new businesses, Mortie's Munchies and New Milk Studios. They are working on a couple facade grants downtown. The Workz has starting their job hiring. The Farmer's Rail is on track for late in December or early January. The second page of the report consists of businesses throughout the city. There has been a lot of renovation and some additions, but, as far as new businesses, there has not been a lot of activity going on. The Department still get calls from people who want to relocate their business to Cuyahoga Falls and people who want to renovate their businesses located here. As it relates to completed projects and job numbers, they have completed the creation of 92 jobs and \$8,045,000 in new economic development. Those figures compared to year-to-date 2019, are down 113 jobs citywide, but investment is up almost \$2.5 million.

Ms. Colavecchio stated that since Council agreed to appropriate the \$394,000 received from HUD, they have been able to spend it. They have given out 63 non-matching, five-thousand-dollar grants to businesses throughout the city, which amounted to \$315,000. Because each person or applicant must retain one part-time job means that they have retained 63 part-time jobs throughout the city. The City has received another HUD round of \$233,000. They have yet to appropriate that. There were a couple documents that had to be amended, and once those documents are approved by HUD, they will be able to move forward on expenses. The City is following the County's role and using some of those funds for residents to assist with emergency mortgage, rent and utility payments. They can pay up to three months on an emergency basis. To do that, the City is going to enter into a separate agreement with United Way. United Way does this task with the County, so they are equipped to do that.

Ms. Colavecchio stated that there were some businesses present at the south State Road facade meeting. A couple business owners have agreed to step up and be leaders for that community. The NECCO Department is working with some of those leaders to put together some branding and logos and signage for that area, as well. Senior snowplow will continue. The Master Plan for the Merriman Valley is still under way. The RF requests for a consultant are due at the end of this month, so they will be in the process of selecting a consultant. The public can attend those meetings when they are held.

Mr. Brillhart stated that this has been a tough year and a trying time. Ms. Colavecchio and her staff has done a fantastic job in business development and retention. Council appreciates the work her department and the Administration has done.

Mayor Walters stated that he follows the unemployment numbers from the State of Ohio, Summit County. The August numbers for a city of 50,000 or greater, the two lowest cities were Kettering and Mentor. Tied next was Cuyahoga Falls for the lowest unemployment rate. The September numbers are now in. Kettering was the lowest, Mentor second and then Cuyahoga Falls. He receives the housing numbers. Those are usually Summit County as a whole, but they will provide 44221 zip code. Median days on the market for the 44221 zip code was four days. That is amazing. When you look at the selling price versus asking price versus appraised value, it is still off the charts. There is not much inventory, but they are selling in a day and at a good value, and that is a good litmus test for the City. It has been an exceptionally good time in the real estate market, as well. Mr. Brillhart stated that agrees with what Mayor Walters said seven years ago that there are only two kinds of people; those that live in Cuyahoga Falls and those that want to live in Cuyahoga Falls. Mayor Walters has done a fantastic job. People want to live here, and they want to work there, and the numbers show that. Mayor Walters stated that it is his team and City Council, as well, so thanks to all of them.

Mr. Gorbach stated that he would like to thank Ms. Colavecchio and her office, as well, and point how quickly the City got that grant money out into the neighborhoods and into the businesses. It is a huge task to review those grant applications, prepare them, speak with the individuals requesting the money and then get that money to those individuals. Ms. Colavecchio stated that it is a big team effort, and she will relay the appreciative comments to her staff.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that the Trick or Treat Scavenger Hunt on Saturday was an amazing event, and thanked Mayor Walters, Parks and Recreation and all the volunteers. She has heard nothing but positive comments during and after. Mr. Brillhart stated that he and his wife worked it at Lion's Park. It was so much fun, and very well executed by the Administration and Parks and Recreation. It was a great idea to put the city equipment there, too. It is nice that people can see that the City has a lot of top-notch equipment. Mr. Stams stated that he would like to recognize the people that helped at Ward 8. They did a fantastic job at Keyser Park. Ms. Janet Ciotola, Law Director, and her husband were there. Steve from Parks and Recreation and Matt Dickinson from the Law Department and a few other volunteers were there. Not only did they do well, but their costumes were also outstanding. Mrs. Spinner stated that she was located at the Quirk Center. There were cars lined up all the way past 6th Street at one time, and it was a constant flow. Despite the wait to get in, the responses were all grateful and happy. Mrs. Penta stated that it was great to see the kids' outfits and their joy. She was located at Babb Run and many parents commented on how they had forgotten about this park. She hopes it happens again next year. Ms. Loza stated that her children always look forward to City Hall trick or treating. She has three young children, and, with COVID, they were not sure how trick or treating would go this year. She heard from fellow parents in her neighborhood and across Cuyahoga Falls that everyone loved it.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that in the General Fund, the City has gotten its last property tax last settlement, and it will be about \$100,000 more than where it was in 2019. Admissions Tax was a total loss there with no shows at Blossom Music Center. It is about a six-hundred-thousand-dollar hit to Admissions Tax. In government funds from the State of Ohio, there have been some good months and they are slated to hit those budgets. On the Income Tax side, it looks to be up from 2019. The reason for that is because the City received some revenue in January of this year but did not get revenue in January of last year. They are projecting to be down about three and a half percent this year on total income taxes. That is better than what they had anticipated in May, and it is better than a lot of surrounding communities. The one number that is down the most is on the net profit side, and that was expected as businesses are shut down. The withholding side is down just a little bit. Around 90 percent of that can be attributed to Blossom not operating this year. They are hopeful, as time goes on and jobs are filled, that the City continues to get stronger on the income tax side. One item in the budget that is going to take a decent hit is the interest income number. That is no surprise as rates have fallen, and they are slated to be down on interest.

Mr. Hoffman stated that, on the expense side, expenses have slowed throughout this year. They are projecting to be saving about \$2.2 million in total expenses. That is a combination of both current slowdown in operations due to COVID, as well as turnover of personnel and not being able to fill those positions, as they have been waiting and seeing how the economy has been going. Some of those jobs will have to be filled, as they cannot remain vacant, but it must be done slowly and in a prudent way. On the Enterprises side, under Water, Sewer and Electric, they are not seeing delinquencies rise much. There has been a slight increase in delinquencies this month. On the Self-Insurance Fund side, as COVID hit and elective surgeries and doctor office visits slowed down due to the lack of people moving around, those claims have been down all year. That is built into the flat premiums for 2021 in the budget. There are two new funds in Report 21 located on page 10, the local Coronavirus Relief Fund, and the Summit County COVID-19 Grant Fund. Those were the CARES Act dollars received for the City. The City is receiving a little over \$5.5

million in CARES Act funding. Tomorrow, they will be pricing those bonds that Council had approved earlier this month. The City had to go back for a rating, and that rating came back from Moody's as AA-2. That is a positive thing, as some cities have seen a downgrade during this tough time. Mr. Hoffman thanked Mayor Walters and the Administration for providing guidance and doing what they can to keep the financial situation strong.

Mr. James moved to adjourn, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Michael Brillhart, Council President

Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council