

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

**March 4, 2024**

**Members:** Meika Penta, Chair  
Frank Stams, Vice Chair  
Gary DeRemer  
Jerry James  
Rachel Loza

Mrs. Penta called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the December 4, 2023 Public Improvements Committee were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. A-29

Temp. Ord. A-30

Temp. Ord. A-34

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. A-29**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of on-site utility pole storage at the new electric department building and warehouse, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Rod Troxell, Electric Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance A-29 to Council. The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the construction of on-site utility pole storage at the new Electric Department building and warehouse at 222 Cochran Road. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Electric Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay. Construction would start in mid-August.

Mrs. Penta stated that this was budgeted for \$160,000 and it is under budget at \$140,000 with some changes.

Mr. Stams asked Mr. Troxell if he envisioned a day that they wouldn't use wooden utility poles, because he thinks they are a blight on any community. He also asked how realistic it would be to locate all utility lines underground. Mr. Troxell stated that he was once a lineman and climbed those poles to which Mr. Stams responded that he was once a linebacker, so they have something in common. Mr. Troxell then stated that utilities are located underground in new allotments and even the buildings today, but to put all existing City lines underground would be cost prohibitive and would be passed on to the customer with costly electric bills. It also would require easements and rights-of-ways to do that not to mention requiring replacement of lines to all the houses and the businesses. When troubleshooting, faults in overhead lines are easily found and repaired. When lines are underground, they have to locate the fault and then dig to replace it. Overhead lines can be repaired over a couple hours while underground line repair can take 8 to 12 hours.

**Public & Industrial Improvements**  
**March 4, 2024 – Page 2**

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-29 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer. Motion passed (5-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-30**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with DLZ Ohio, Inc., for professional engineering services related to the design and relocation of the main trunk sewer located within the Gorge Metro Park, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Russ Kring, Water Utilities Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance A-30 to Council. The City followed the procedures set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Sections 153.65 to 153.73 in selecting a professional engineering design services firm to assist with the design and relocation of the main trunk sewer located within the Gorge Metro Park. After review of all the proposals submitted to the City, DLZ Ohio, Inc. was selected as the most qualified for the project.

The Director of Public Service will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with DLZ Ohio, Inc., for professional engineering services related to the design and relocation of the main trunk sewer located within the Gorge Metro Park. The Director of Finance will be authorized and directed to make payment for same from the Sanitary Sewer Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Kring stated that they want to relocate the sewer out of the Gorge Metro Park. This is a good time to do so, because Akron has a tunnel project starting across the river on their side. The goal with the project is to have the work take place with Akron's tunnel project and hopefully the dam removal, so everybody is in there at once to get all the work out of the way and then leave it good to go for another 100 years. This ordinance will get DLZ going on the design. They are looking at narrowing the areas that will be gravity sewer versus the areas that will be pump stations and force mains, so that will be included in their work.

Mrs. Penta stated that it is nice to be able to coordinate all the efforts. She asked what a gravity sewer is. Mr. Kring answered that it is a natural flow. It slopes out of a house and hits the main using gravity.

Mrs. Penta this was budgeted for the estimated cost of \$500,000. This is just to start the paperwork and everything needed for it.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-30 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer . Motion passed (5-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-34**

An ordinance authorizing the Parks and Recreation Board to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Dan Guardo Contracting, Inc., for the Water Works Family Aquatic Center pool surface refinish project, and declaring an emergency.

**Public & Industrial Improvements**  
**March 4, 2024 – Page 2**

Ms. Sara Kline, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, presented Temporary Ordinance A-34 to Council. The pool surface at Water Works Family Aquatic Center is now over 20 years old and is reaching its effective life cycle. Dan Guardo Contracting, Inc. will complete the resurfacing in an expedited manner, ensuring the resurfacing project will occur in months when Water Works Family Aquatic Center is closed so that there is no disruption to the seasonal operations. Dan Guardo Contracting, Inc. has completed several pool resurfacing projects at Water Works Family Aquatic Center and the Natatorium and has expertise in Diamond Brite pool resurfacing. Dan Guardo Contracting, Inc. has completed the previous phases of the project and will complete the last section of the resurfacing project. The resurfacing, with proper application and maintenance, will afford the pool surface another 20 years of life expectancy.

The Parks and Recreation Board will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Dan Guardo Contracting, Inc., for the Water Works Family Aquatic Center pool surface refinish project. The Finance Director will be authorized to make payment for the same from the Recreation Levy Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Ms. Kline stated that this is an upgrade to the 20-year-old Waterworks pool. They have had trouble over the years getting the work done because of the challenge getting contractors. Dan Guardo Contracting, Inc. is experienced in Diamond Bright pool resurfacing. The project will be completed before Waterworks opens for the summer.

Mrs. Penta stated that this was budgeted at about \$150,000. It is a jewel and a gem in the City and trying to maintain it and keeping it operational and safe is a high priority.

Mr. Stams moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-34 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. DeRemer . Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.