

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
December 27, 2012**

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Carrie Snyder
Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-127

Sub. Temp. Ord. A-131

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-127

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract without competitive bidding with Greenstar Mid-America, LLC for the transfer, processing and sale of recyclable materials acquired by the City through its curbside recycling program, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Carr stated they had a lot of competition over who wanted to take the City's recycling. The people interested were willing to pay the City. That is why there is no competitive bidding.

Mr. Novak stated that over the last three years, the City has paid a tipping fee on a per ton basis. That will be eliminated now. The reason they chose Greenstar over the company used in the past was due to the volatility of the market. This contract gives the City some safeguards. If the market hits bottom, Greenstar will take the amount out of future rebates. This is a three-year contract with two one-year options. It is based on the daily common prices per month. Greenstar will separate the goods and determine the makeup with the City present. Whatever the markets are that month, that is what it will be based on. They will have a breakdown of the tonnage and each commodity to arrive at a total and subtract the processing. The City will then receive a percentage.

Mr. Walters stated this is a great deal. The more residents recycle, the more the cost will go down. Mr. Novak added that this year's savings from a reduction in trash and an increase in recycle vs. the totals from two years ago, is just over \$68,000. Mr. Walters stated the savings will keep rates in check. He felt the City's rates are lower than private haulers. Mr. Novak stated they are getting a software upgrade so the City will have flexibility. Mr. Walters commented that the article in the paper was not factual as far as where the City fell because the City's program has to be the best. Mrs. Carr stated she spoke with the Summit-Akron Solid Waste Authority. Cuyahoga Falls is actually double what Tallmadge is. The Solid Waste Authority divided the numbers by the 2010 census instead of by the number of customers. When she spoke to the Beacon Journal, they simply replied that those were the numbers the Solid Waste Authority had given them. The City has actual readings and will be getting the problem fixed at the next Solid Waste Authority meeting in April.

Mrs. Klinger moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-127 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Snyder. Motion passed (3-0).

Sub. Temp. Ord. A-131 (dated 12/27/13)

An ordinance amending Section 131.01 of Title Five, Part One of the Codified Ordinances, relating to authorized staffing of the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Moledor stated this legislation matches the actual staffing levels. Mr. Walters stated that Council has received a new substitute. The City hired a consulting firm who is acting as a neutral third party. In the meantime, everyone can live with the numbers in this legislation. Once the study comes out, there may also be things the Department can do that are not staffing related. Chief Moledor stated they will evaluate each of the consultant's recommendations for feasibility and cost. Mrs. Klinger stated she would like to see a similar study for the Police Department. She is not comfortable voting on the numbers without seeing an independent study.

David Wittner, Union President, stated this is a step in the right direction from the Union's point of view until the study results come back. He hoped it would be Council's intention to keep the number at 73. Mr. Walters commented that the word "shall" was still in there. Mr. Janis replied that "shall" indicates the precise number stated for each position and the City is subject to state law to backfill those positions. Chief Moledor pointed out that the number is slightly below 73 right now because they are in the hiring process. They are waiting for candidates to schedule appointments but it is still their intention to get the number up to 73.

Mrs. Klinger moved to bring out Sub. Temp. Ord. A-131 (dated 12/27/13), second by Mrs. Snyder. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.