

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee**

March 18, 2024

Members: Rachel Loza, Chair
Brian Ashton, Vice Chair
Jerry James, Frank Stams, Gary DeRemer

Ms. Loza called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the February 20, 2024 Public Affairs Committee Meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Res A-37
Temp. Ord. A-38

Discussion:

Temp. Res. A-37

A resolution declaring the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Lisa Kamlowsky, Superintendent, Summit DD, presented Temporary Resolution A-37 to Council. In 1967, Boards of Developmental Disabilities were created in Ohio under House Bill 169 including the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board. Through the work of legislators and other stakeholder groups, including families and community-based organizations, public policy changes like the Americans with Disabilities Act have been developed to support and maximize the independence of people with developmental disabilities to create a more inclusive society.

The Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board has made investments to support individuals so that residents with disabilities may live more independently and find meaningful employment. The City of Cuyahoga Falls is honored that the Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities chose to expand their operations within the City and looks forward to continued collaboration on many exciting projects in the near future. The City of Cuyahoga Falls was honored to join the Summit County Development Disabilities Board in recognizing March 4, 2024, as Inclusion Day, in which the community recognized and supported people of all abilities who are maximizing their talents and potential in pursuing their dreams and achieving their individual goals, while making significant contributions to our community. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an appropriate time to recognize the City's public policy improvements, the accomplishments of community organizations, developmental disability service providers, and most importantly, the achievements of thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities who contribute daily to our communities.

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The Council and Administration will declare the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and commend the community organizations, agencies, and direct service professionals for their dedication, awareness efforts, and outstanding assistance toward improving the quality of life for children and adults with developmental disabilities,

Ms. Kamlowky thanked Council, Mayor Walters and the City staff. City staff participated on Monday, March 4, Inclusion Day. This is celebrated nationally in the month of March and is intended to raise awareness about people that live with disabilities.

Ms. Loza stated that it is hard to believe it has been two years since Summit DD opened across the street. She can speak for most of them in saying that they love partnering with Summit DD and so many of them have special connections to folks that you service.

Mr. Balthis stated that it is kind of Ms. Kamlowky to come and thank them, but he wanted to thank Summit DD for all the work they do and their amazing choice to locate their office in Cuyahoga Falls. They are a great asset to the community and work hard to serve a lot of people. They look forward to continued partnerships for many years.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-37 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (5-0).

Temp. Ord. A-38

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control File by reducing the speed limit on Bailey Road from Erie to Front Street, and declaring an emergency.

Mayor Walters and Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance A-38 to Council. Site-specific traffic control regulations of the City are established and maintained in the “Traffic Control File,” a document established and maintained by the Chief of Police pursuant to Chapter 305 of the Codified Ordinances. Section 305.02 of said Chapter requires that amendments to the Traffic Control File be made only through legislation passed by City Council.

Upon the recommendation of the Traffic Committee, the Traffic Control File is hereby amended as follows: Amending the Traffic Control File by reducing the speed limit on Bailey Road from Erie to Front Street from 35 MPH to 25 MPH. The Chief of Police will be authorized to note in the Traffic Control File the proper legends. The Mayor or his designee will be authorized to cause the installation or removal of the proper signage reflecting the above amendments.

Mayor Walters stated that all traffic control devices, signs, traffic signals and marked lanes must comply with the State Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The manual states that a 35-mph speed limit is permitted when the road is uninterrupted for over a mile long. Bailey Road now ends at Front Street, so the 35 mph speed limit no longer applies. This ordinance will be in compliance with the manual regarding 35 miles per hour.

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Mr. Demasi stated that the Traffic Committee recently met upon this request to discuss it with the traffic consultant and the Committee agreed to refer it to Council.

Ms. Loza stated that it is straightforward making it compliant and more safe for that area.

Mr. DeRemer stated that he has knocked on a lot of doors on that street and there was not one person that stated they like it 35 miles per hour here. They mentioned cars that have crashed and flipped across from their homes.

Mrs. Spinner asked if when a change like this is made, what are the signs or warnings that alert drivers who frequently drive that path so that they very clearly aware of the new speed limit. Mr. Demasi stated that the current speed limit signs westbound were replaced from 35 to 25. That will be their notice to the reduction in speed. He can't speak for the Police Department. He does not know if, for the first few months, they will give warnings or tickets. He would caution drivers anywhere in the City or outside the City to know the speed limit and drive that speed limit.

Mr. Balthis stated that this is a great change and he appreciates all the work going into it. It's important that they comply with the State manual. In cars now, there is GPS that actually will indicate what the speed limit is. He asked if they have to report that change to ODOT or some data base where the speed limit change will be recorded. Mr. Demasi stated that he does not know if individuals who drive around with GPS units are updating. They will contact ODOT to see if this does need to be journalized with them.

Phillip Schuld, 134 Lincoln Avenue, addressed Council with his concerns of speeding and accidents on his street. He believes the speed limits on Lincoln Avenue have been horrible. People have been driving too fast on Lincoln to cut through Lincoln Avenue and Bailey Road. He has been informed that there are slow-down signs and the Mayor is working on initiatives to change speed limits.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-38 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.