

**CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting**

**April 22, 2024**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Balthis at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Ashton, present; Mr. Balthis, present; Mr. Brillhart, present; Mr. DeRemer, present; Mr. James, present; Ms. Loza, present; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, present; Mrs. Penta, present; Mr. Siegferth, present; Mrs. Spinner, present; Mr. Stams, present.

**Invocation:** Mrs. Spinner

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mrs. Spinner

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the April 15, 2024 Council Meeting were approved as written.

**Reports and Communications:** None

Mr. James moved to dissolve into Executive Session to discuss the imminent or pending court action with legal counsel, second by Mr. Brillhart. Roll Call: Mr. Ashton, Yes; Mr. Balthis, Yes; Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mr. DeRemer, Yes; Mr. James, Yes; Ms. Loza, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mrs. Penta, Yes; Mr. Siegferth, Yes; Mrs. Spinner, Yes; Mr. Stams, Yes. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Council dissolved into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

Mr. James moved to dissolve out of Executive Session, second by Mr. Brillhart. Roll Call: Mr. Ashton, Yes; Mr. Balthis, Yes; Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mr. DeRemer, Yes; Mr. James, Yes; Ms. Loza, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mrs. Penta, Yes; Mr. Siegferth, Yes; Mrs. Spinner, Yes; Mr. Stams, Yes. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0). Council dissolved out of Executive Session at 6:52 p.m.

**New Legislation**  
(First Reading)

**No New Legislation**

**Reports of Council's Standing Committees**  
(Third Reading)

**Planning & Zoning:**

No Report.

**Finance & Appropriations:**

**Temp. Ord. A-43**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to execute a modification of contract no. 8879 with Perrin Asphalt Company for the replacement of curb on Silver Lake Avenue, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-43, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-44**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the replacement of the 6” and 8” water mains on Oakwood Drive, from Monroe Avenue to Graham Road, with an 8” water main, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-44, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

**Public Improvements:**

**Temp. Ord. A-45**

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Akron, Ohio to share the cost of engineering and construction of sidewalk on West Portage Trail, from North Portage Path to Waterford Court, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Penta moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-45, second by Mr. James. Motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

**Public Affairs:**

No Report.

**Community Development:**

No Report.

**Schedule of Committee Meetings**

Planning & Zoning:	Subject to Call.
Finance:	Subject to Call.
Public Improvements:	Subject to Call.
Public Affairs:	Subject to Call.
Community Development:	Subject to Call.

Mrs. Spinner reminded everyone of the Public Hearing to be held on June 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Loza stated that the DORA Public Hearing originally scheduled for this evening has been rescheduled to May 20, 2024.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

Ms. Kathryn Semo with the Auditor of State's office presented the City with the Auditor of State Award of Distinction for fiscal year 2022. The Auditor of State audits 6,000 entities and issues an Auditor of State Award and an Auditor of State Award With Distinction, which is harder to get. Only 4 percent of their clients are able to receive it, so the City of Cuyahoga Falls is in a select group. She gave accolades to the Finance Department for all the hard work done their department.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, thanked the Auditor of State's office and Ms. Semo for the comments. A lot of credit goes to the Finance Department staff, because they could not do it without them.

Mr. Hoffman then presented Report 21 to Council. Under Property Tax, they have not received the first-half settlement. They will get that in the next week or so, or in the early part of May. That will show up on the June report. The Admission Tax line item will begin once Blossom Music Center starts their concerts. On the Interest Income item, at this time, they are exceeding their estimates. This year, they still see strong income tax returns. They are looking at an approximate 9-percent increase over 2023 in Income Tax General Revenues. They could see that start to taper, and will get a better indication next month of exactly where they are once the month of April closes. The Street Construction Maintenance and Repair Fund is doing better than expected. That is dependent on the gasoline excise tax. They are seeing an 8.4-percent increase over 2023.

Moving on to the Leisure Time Fund, in the Natatorium, they are seeing a 5.7-percent increase in charges for services over 2023. At the golf course, they are seeing about a 9.8 percent increase over 2023. Because of the nice weather Downview has been open more this year because of the nice weather and, at this point in time, they are seeing a 26.1-percent increase in revenues. In the Self-Insurance Fund, they are at about 14.9 percent in claims of hospitalization and dental over 2023 and about 8.9 percent over prescription drugs at this time last year. He anticipates these numbers leveling out as they tend to see large claimants this year and they may hit the stop-loss insurance which will refund the City. The revenue side of that is matching what they anticipated into 2024, so they do not foresee a problem from the revenue expense side at this point in time. Last year, they did give a premium holiday. Because they had such a good year on the hospitalization and dental, the level of premiums did not change. They did increase that level about 5 percent in 2025 which would help fund the elevated claims.

Ms. Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director, presented the first quarterly Economic Development Report. In terms of the completed total for the first quarter that is indicated in the large font style in green print indicates \$25,558,000 for economic development this year.

That is driven by the fact that Princeton Place, Inc. has been completed. Akron Children's Hospital will be breaking ground soon. That is going to bring 10 full-time positions and an estimated payroll of \$1.8 million. Barhoppin is a small start-up that organizes pub crawls, and that's what they did for the St. Patrick's Day pub crawl. El Papas Mexican Restaurant opened their doors. They came from Akron. With respect to The Glens town homes and Fountain Pointe town homes, Testa Company projects, they anticipate building to start within 30 to 45 days. Every part of the cleanup project has been completed from expert staff and from the Land Bank Executive. They are just waiting for the final okay from the EPA. There is a new business called Mapcuts. They took over the Casperson building on Wyoga Lake Road. Casperson is still looking to land in Cuyahoga Falls. That investment is going to bring six full-time positions with an estimated payroll of \$300,000. Michael Horning Construction & Design has built his own building on Cochran Road that will serve as his headquarters and showroom for kitchen and bathroom cabinets. This is a feel-good moment for the City, because the City's electric building has been constructed on Cochran Road on the far west side and this building is a few parcels away. The City is using these two buildings to jump start their marketing campaign at the end of this year or early next year to try to pull in some industrial and commercial end users for that project. They continue to take calls and get e-mails and once they obtain their Building Department permits, they will appear on the checklist.

Mr. Stams congratulated Ms. Colavecchio and her department. In looking at the list of businesses, he was glad to Klutch Sports listed and to see that that is a lot of jobs. He was glad to assist in that.

Mr. James moved to adjourned, second by Mr. Brillhart, motion passed, voice vote (11-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Russ Balthis, Council President

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Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council