

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

**July 15, 2024**

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

Ms. Loza called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the June 3, 2024 Public Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Res. A-63  
Temp. Ord. A-64  
Temp. Ord. A-65

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Res. A-63**

A resolution approving and adopting the Summit County Hazard Mitigation plan and declaring an emergency.

Chief Martin presented Temporary Resolution A-63 to Council. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established rules and regulations under the United States Code of Federal Regulation, Title 44, Section 201.6, as authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, requiring local governments to have a hazard mitigation plan approved pursuant to the aforementioned section in order to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grants. The Plan provides a guide for decision makers to help reduce risks from natural hazards and serves as a basis for the State of Ohio to provide technical and funding assistance.

The Summit County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA) is responsible for updating the Plan every five years, and has updated the same. The Plan was updated in coordination with local planning agencies, police and fire chiefs, and each of the communities in Summit County. Following adoption by this Council, the ordinance adopting the updated Plan is forwarded to OEMA and FEMA.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-63 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (5-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-64**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to exchange land with the Cuyahoga Falls City School District in connection with the new school campus at 13th Street and Portage Trail and accompanying right-of-way, and declaring an emergency.

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Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, presented Temporary Ordinance A-64 to Council. The Cuyahoga Falls City School District (“CFCSO”) is constructing a new school campus to accommodate grades 6 through 12 at 13th Street and Portage Trail; The City will transfer a portion of property, attached to the ordinance as Exhibit 19 A, to CFCSO for the purpose of constructing a driveway and sidewalk, and installing a stop sign for the new school campus. As an additional part of this construction project, CFCSO has installed a new right turn lane on Portage Trail to allow ingress into its new school campus from the east and not impede traffic. CFCSO now intends to transfer this portion of property, attached to the ordinance as Exhibit B, to the City for dedication as City right-of-way along Portage Trail so that the City can maintain this area as a public road. The property that the City seeks to transfer to CFCSO is no longer needed for any municipal purpose.

Mr. Demasi stated that, as part of the new school campus project at Portage Trail, the Traffic Impact Study recommended a new right-turn lane to allow drivers to enter safely into the campus during peak hours. This lane is currently being built and should be completed in the next month or two. Since the new turn lane is school property and the City wants it to be in the right-of-way, the School District is donating the land to the City. The School District’s project will require a small amount of Fire Station property to be given to them to allow a proper approach including a sidewalk. The School District will be giving the City .1682 acres, which is a little over 7,000 square feet and the City will be giving them .0064 acres, which is a little less than 300 square feet.

Ms. Loza stated that she appreciates the fact that the City and the School District can be great partners on these projects.

Superintendent Andrea Celico and School Board President Anthony Gomez were also present.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-64 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (5-0).

**Temp. Ord. A-65**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a License Agreement with the Preserves at Salt Creek Homeowners Association, Inc., for the purpose of permitting landscaping and constructing neighborhood recreational improvements on city-owned property, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Janet Ciotola presented Temporary Ordinance A-65 to Council. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a license agreement with The Preserves at Salt Creek Homeowners Association, Inc. for the purpose of permitting landscaping and constructing neighborhood recreational improvements on City-owned property as set forth in Exhibit A, attached to this ordinance. The license agreement shall contain such terms and conditions as are necessary in the opinion of the Director of Law to protect the public interest.

Ms. Ciotola stated that the Salt Creek Homeowner's Association reached out to the Mayor for using property for their development. Aside from City utilities located underground, the City is

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not using this property for any purpose. As such, the Homeowners Association would like to do some landscaping, install a fence and benches. That development is exceptionally beautiful and they want to enhance the neighborhood esthetics and provide some recreation. The license agreement is for a 10-year period and allows for two renewals of 5 years each. It is stated in the agreement that before any construction is done, they have to confer with the City to make sure it does not interfere with City utilities.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ordinance A-65 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.