

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

September 3, 2024

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

Mrs. Penta called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. Mr. Stams was absent.

The minutes of the July 15, 2024 Public Improvements Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-69

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-69

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, with OHM Advisors to provide professional engineering services for the Mud Brook Trail Phase II, increasing appropriations, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Rob Kurtz, Planning Director, presented Temporary Ordinance A-69 to Council. The City followed the procedures set forth in Ohio Revised Code Sections 153.65 to 153.73 in selecting a professional design services firm to assist with the design of the Mud Brook Trail Phase II. After review of all the proposals submitted to the City, OHM Advisors 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 OHM Advisors to provide professional engineering services for the design of the Mud Brook Trail Phase II. The Director of Finance will be authorized to appropriate funds to the Mudbrook-Mill Pond Public Improvement Tax Increment Equivalent Fund Line Item Capital Outlay in the amount of \$196,950 for professional engineering services for the design of the Mud Brook Trail Phase II. The Director of Finance will also be authorized to make payment for the same.

Mr. Kurtz Stated requested approval from Council to appropriate funds in the amount of \$196,950 for professional engineering services from OHM Advisors for the design of the Mud Brook Trail Phase II. OHM advisors was selected after a thorough Request for Qualification (RFQ) process was conducted with the assistance of Service, Engineering and Parks Departments. A total of five (5) proposals were received and OHM's proposal scored the highest by all reviewers. OHM is a well-respected firm and demonstrated that they (and their team) have extensive experience in trail planning and engineering projects. I have previously submitted a grant application to the Ohio

Public & Industrial Improvements
September 3, 2024 – Page 2

Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) through the 2024 Clean Ohio Trails Fund (COTF) program for the construction of this trail. Grant notification is expected late 2024. The proposed trail, Mill Pond/Mud Brook Greenway Phase II, is 0.94 mile in length and will be constructed as an 8-foot wide chip and seal paved trail similar to the recently completed trail north of Bath Road (Phase I). The trail will also include boardwalks to traverse the wetlands and a bridge to cross Mill Pond. The trail would extend south within City right-of-way or City-owned property and terminate at Peoplecare Park Drive.

Mr. Russ Critelli, Principal, and Mr. Jeremy Hinte, Project Manager, were present on behalf of OHM Advisors.

Mrs. Penta stated that she is excited to have another trail. It takes a lot of work and time and configuring to make this project happen and she is excited to see its completion.

Mr. Brillhart stated that he is on Phase I of the trail many times a week. The residents absolutely love the trail and the trail is fabulous. Parks and Recreation is doing an outstanding job. It has been a challenge with the trees that have fallen, and Mud Brook has collected a lot of debris that has to be removed. Phase II is highly anticipated. One of the things residents have wanted is a sidewalk, because they want to be able to walk from the condo neighborhoods to State Road. In this case, they will be able to go through Phase II and go to State Road. In looking at the design of this trail, it looks like there will probably have to be some degree of boardwalks and it looks like going to be run against the cement walls behind Menard's. He asked how close to the wall will the trail run.

Mr. Kurtz stated that the exact distance has not been determined, but it will be close. This trail will include multiple boardwalks and at least one bridge over Mud Brook. It will certainly be a challenge.

Mr. Brillhart thanked the Administration for continuing the trail and really pushing this. It is appreciated by everyone.

Mr. Balthis asked for an estimate on timelines as to how long after they put the study together they would anticipate construction beginning. Mr. Critelli, OHM Advisors, stated that, originally, the timeframe given to them at the start was about 11 to 12 months for engineering and design. Again, there are various permitting requirements that may actually shorten that.

Mr. Balthis asked if there is any expectation of whether there are ways to add parking, either on-street parking on Bath Road or something where the Buffalo Wild Wings is now. Mr. Kurtz stated that it was not in the initial plan to add any parking at the terminus at PeopleCare Park. There are probably some onsite spaces at PeopleCare Park. There may be trailheads in the future. The City does not own any property there, so that would be a wish list at this point.

Mr. Balthis stated that between the grants and Tax Increment Financing, the City has done a lot of creative things to reduce the cost and make the dollars go further. It is a credit to the Administration that they would add something to improve the neighborhood and do it in a fiscally responsible way.

Public & Industrial Improvements
September 3, 2024 – Page 3

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-69 with a favorable recommendation, second by Ms. Loza. Motion passed (4-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.