

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

**October 21, 2024**

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

Ms. Loza called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. Mr. Stams was absent.

The minutes of the September 16, 2024 Public Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. A-99  
Temp. Res. A-100  
Temp. Res. A-101

**Discussion:**

**Temp. Ord. A-99**

An ordinance amending the Traffic Control File, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Norfolk presented Temporary Ordinance A-99 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 will be amended as follows: Amending the Traffic Control File by prohibiting parking on the South Side of Ashland Avenue, from Hudson Drive to 644 Ashland Avenue.

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.

Captain Norfolk stated that the Traffic Control meeting was held on the 30th of last month to discuss a request to prohibit parking on the south side of Ashland. This request came from the United Presbyterian Church to use that area of the street for drop-off and pick-up for their preschool. The Traffic Committee looked at the request and voted to approve it on the 30th. Ms. Loza stated that it is important to keep the children safe.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-99 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (4-0).

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**Temp. Res. A-100**

A resolution supporting Issue 40, the Summit County Children Services Levy at the General Election on November 5, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Liz Mangon, Deputy Director, HR & Training, Children Services, presented Temporary Resolution A-100 to Council. The City of Cuyahoga Falls desires to show support for Issue 40, a ballot initiative that helps to provide the necessary funding for Summit County Children Services. Summit County Children Services is committed to the safety, permanency, and well-being of all children it serves, working in partnership with families and the community to provide comprehensive support and care. The City of Cuyahoga Falls encourages the community to support Issue 40 on November 5, 2024.

Ms. Mangon explained the mission of the Summit County Children Services Board. The cost for \$100,000 value of a house is \$68 a year. It is a capped levy so the fact that property taxes were re-evaluated last year and some property values have gone up does not impact their collections. They will be collecting at the same rate that they have been since 2018, so there will be no impact to taxpayers' bottom line. She asked for Council's support to achieve their mission. They are one of the premier child welfare agencies in Ohio. Summit County is a resource-rich community. People want to work in Summit County because of the community and the resources and the support they always receive.

Ms. Loza stated that they appreciate all that they do and appreciate, on behalf of Cuyahoga Falls residents, the capped levy. The care that Children Services provides is critical and it is heartbreaking that it has to happen. She is glad this is a not a new tax and a renewal.

Mrs. Spinner stated that the Children Services Board is an excellent steward of these funds. She can appreciate that and the fact that it is a level income tax. She voted for it and would encourage others to do so and would gladly take a yard sign if she has one.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-100 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (4-0).

**Temp. Res. A-101**

A resolution expressing support for and urging passage of Issue 29, the Cuyahoga Falls City School District Levy, at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and declaring an emergency.

The Cuyahoga Falls City School District has nine public schools in the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the Village of Silver Lake, serving over 4,000 students. A properly-funded public school system is foundational to civic and economic success. The Cuyahoga Falls City School District has caused a proposed levy to be placed on the November 5, 2024 ballot as Issue 29. These funds will be used, in part, to make improvements to the elementary schools for the safety and comfort of the students. This levy is a renewal, not an increase, commencing in 2025.

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Ms. Loza stated that Mr. Tim Belby, head of the District Levy Committee, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, did send over information regarding the levy. It would continue the existing levy the community approved in 2005. This is a renewal levy and there no new increase in taxes.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that this levy has nothing to do with the new schools. Public education is the most important thing they can have a positive impact on. They are raising the leaders of the future. She stated that she attended the open house for the new school campus on Saturday. It was amazing and uplifting. She is proud of this community for supporting this and she hopes the community will support this renewal levy of Issue 29.

Ms. Loza stated that, as a parent of three children in the Cuyahoga Falls City Schools, she can speak to her and her children's experience that every teacher and every administrator, every faculty and staff member wants to be there and are happy to serve the Cuyahoga Falls School District. Her children are thriving and learning. They are growing in ways that she cannot help them and she cannot say enough great things about the schools. She would like to keep them funded and this resolution has her support.

Mr. Ashton moved to bring out Temp. Res. A-101 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (4-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.