

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Community Development Committee Meeting
April 19, 2010

Members: Jerry James, Chair
Vince Rubino
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the February 1, 2010 Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. A-54

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-54

An ordinance of the Council of the City of Cuyahoga Falls approving the Fiscal Year 2010 CDBG Annual Action Plan Document and Program, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated this is the seventh year of funding. The package before Council tonight is for the July, 2010 thru June, 2011 budget. They are looking at a budget of \$728,000 this year. All money spent must be used to benefit low-to-moderate income families. They have Housing budgeted at \$182,000, Infrastructure at \$274,000, Economic Development at \$42,000 and Administration at \$130,000. Housing includes matching grant program that was expanded City-wide, rehabilitation loans, paint program and first time buyer assistance loans. For Infrastructure, the City has 13 census blocks in Ward 3. \$234,000 is set aside for infrastructure projects in that area. The second item is \$40,000 for the Nikki's Walk project. She added that everything is an estimate at this time. For Economic Development, \$30,000 is for small business loans. It also includes \$12,500 for acquisition of the blighted property on Portage Trail. The amount for Administration includes fair housing, homeless and program administration for Brownfield assessments.

Mr. James stated that everyone on Council received their packets on this program. He just returned to town yesterday and has not had a chance to review the information. He would like to have time to review it. He asked whether holding this legislation in committee would negatively affect the timetable. Mrs. Truby and Mrs. Bell agreed that that would not be a problem. Mr. Rubino stated he would support the request. Mrs. Pyke asked about home funding on page 22. Mr. Guerra stated they would have to find a project that would qualify for the program. The type of project could be a specific one such as Watermark or it could be a selected area to renovate houses. They have talked about looking into that. Mrs. Pyke asked who was on the Energy Steering Committee mentioned on page 31. Mr. Guerra stated they put a Steering Committee together consisting of City officials to review the energy grant the City received. That will be in front of Council in a couple of weeks because the City did receive the approval. The grant is to spend money on energy-related activities in the City. Mrs. Truby stated members included Mrs. McCleary, Mr. McHugh and Mr. Amburn. Mrs. Hummel stated when the legislation on the energy conservation grant comes before Council, she will want to know about the consulting amount associated with it. It appeared it was \$50,000 from what she reads on page 32. Mr. Guerra stated the City entered into a contract and received \$20,000 up front to do a strategic plan, and they hired URS. They now have additional money to help with some of the activities. Mrs. Hummel asked if part of the \$50,000 was the \$20,000 already spent. Mr. Guerra stated he would check and get back to her. Mrs. Hummel's next question was about the creation of jobs. She asked how many had been created with the two small business loans already given. Mrs. Bell stated each required

three jobs but they have created seven full-time jobs. Mrs. Hummel stated the report says four a year for five years so that is wonderful. Mrs. Pyke asked if there was any carry-over for the matching grant money. Mrs. Bell stated there was. Mrs. Pyke asked how many \$15,000 grants were given last year. Mrs. Bell replied there were two. Mrs. Pyke stated she appreciated having the program opened up to more people and making it City-wide. Mrs. Klinger asked if the amount under Spot Slum & Blight was strictly for the purchase of the facility. Mrs. Truby stated it was. Mrs. Klinger asked if there would be additional funding or City money used to pay for the demolition. Mrs. Truby stated that \$155,000 was for an environmental testing grant. They have earmarked money for demolition through CDBG. Mrs. Bell added that last year, they talked about recovery funds. In that program, they allocated funding for the demolition of the property. Mrs. Klinger asked if the \$189,210 was for the Watermark project. Mrs. Truby stated there are two projects. Watermark is one. They need to have over 70% of the funding going to low to moderate income homes. The first 70% is to Watermark and the remaining 30% is going to the demolition of the Portage Trail project. Mrs. Pyke stated that page 23 talked about what AMHA has done. She asked if Mrs. Bell was aware of the improvements at Sutcliffe I. They are going to demolish the whole first floor and redo it. She stated she had the plans if Mrs. Bell was interested.

Committee recommended holding Temp. Ord. A-26.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.