

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Improvements Committee Meeting
May 24, 2010

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Mark Ihasz
Terry Mader

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Mader was absent.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. A-69

Temp. Ord. A-49

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-69

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract with Kenmore Construction, Inc., to perform emergency repairs to a storm sewer outfall located near 2nd Street and State Route 8 Expressway under the State Route 8 southbound 2nd Street Off Ramp, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated the recent rains caused severe erosion to a 15” storm sewer under the southbound 2nd Street ramp on the Expressway. Kenmore Construction will replace the 15” corrugated pipe with a new 15” plastic pipe. One lane, as well as the southbound ramp, will be closed during the repairs. Mr. Walters asked if the repair will stop the erosion. Mr. Demasi stated what happened was that the pipe broke and soil washed into the pipe. Once the repair is made, they will backfill the area. The problem was discovered a couple weeks ago. Mr. Walters stated the estimate is \$40,000 and asked what the actual cost was. Mr. Demasi stated it was \$38,958. Mr. Walters stated when a project is an emergency, does the price go up vs. if it was able to be bid. Mr. Demasi stated it may go up a little but the City does not have the luxury to wait for the bidding process to be completed. Mrs. Pyke asked if signs would be posted before the Graham Road exit to let motorists know the 2nd Street ramp is closed. Mr. Demasi stated they will post signs. The repair should take a few days to a week. He does not know when they will start. Mrs. Hummel asked what effect this expenditure would have on the Storm Drainage Utility Fund. Mr. Demasi stated that particular line item is for unplanned items. This is the first major expenditure to that line item.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-69.

Temp. Ord. A-49

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to execute a modification of the contract or contracts for the design and engineering of State Road and Portage Trail relative to the construction of Portage Crossing, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby gave the history behind this legislation. The total amount of the contract was \$192,700. Council had approved an earlier ordinance allowing an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Administration then introduced the second ordinance which has been held. Time is of the essence because the window is narrowing to allow the engineer to design the improvements in order to apply for the grant. She is planning to request \$1 million in funding. She had hoped that the major parties involved—URS, Stark

and the architects—would be present to give a full presentation, however, they are at the International Conference of Shopping Centers in Las Vegas this week. Therefore, she is giving a summary presentation this evening, and then a full presentation will be made to Council and the public next Tuesday, June 1 by all parties involved. The full traffic study was more than 250 pages so she had a summary version prepared listing the most important points. She offered to make copies of the larger document for any Council member wishing to see it.

The firm that prepared the Traffic Study is Wells & Associates and included traffic counts provided by URS that were done last fall. The study summarizes current traffic patterns of vehicular traffic traveling through this area, as well as future projections at build out (2012) and beyond (2032). The overall major goal is to revitalize the former State Road Shopping Center site with a new community shopping district that is walkable and pedestrian friendly while minimizing impacts to traffic flow and efficiency. The study determined that the largest volume of traffic in the morning was coming out of the Valley on Portage Trail to turn left onto State Road and then right onto Graham for access to Route 8 north. The pattern reverses at the end of the day. They are proposing to widen eastbound Portage Trail at State Road which will include two left-turn lanes onto State. That will help with the flow and may also allow for a shortening of the green light. Truck traffic is 2% to 3% of all Portage Trail traffic. Also, turning State Road into a boulevard will not adversely affect traffic flow since the road is currently wide enough to install the medians. With regard to Portage Trail, the speed limit is 25, however, cars typically travel much faster. With this development, the speed limit for these two blocks will remain the same, but people will naturally slow down because they will have the feel that they are entering a new district. The area will be depicted by new pavement and markings similar to what was done on Portage Trail at Riverfront. Mr. Walters stated the two left-turn lanes will help with valley traffic getting to Graham Road without impeding the shopping center traffic. Mr. Walters asked if people heading north on State Road would be able to access the businesses on the west side if State Road is turned into a boulevard. Mrs. Truby stated the medians can be shortened but the boulevard concept is strongly desired because it frames the project.

Mr. Walters stated it has been discussed about having a meeting next Tuesday for a full presentation. If everyone on the committee agreed, he recommended holding A-49 for another Committee meeting at that time and Council could then vote on it at a special Council meeting after the discussion to help meet the timing needed for the grant. Mr. Ihasz agreed. It is only fair that the public is aware that this matter is being discussed.

Mrs. Pyke asked if the continuous right-turn lane would be done by the City when it resurfaces Portage Trail. Mr. Demasi stated they are looking at providing the dual lefts but did not know whether they can do the continuous right turn because of the proposed island. Mrs. Pyke stated she liked what was being done with Portage and State. The change will only affect people heading north. She asked about the level of service figures mentioned in the study summary. She found the current levels of service but could not find the levels of service for the proposed changes. Mr. Demasi stated they are on page 37. He added that the numbers listed after the grade are the average delay in seconds of a car traveling at that location and time. Mrs. Hummel stated the date on the Traffic Impact Study was May 12. She asked when the City received the Study. Mrs. Truby stated she received it via e-mail on May 13. Mrs. Hummel pointed out that was a month past the original indication of April 16. Mrs. Truby stated she had been told the City would receive it in the middle of April. Mr. Walters asked whether the Burger King and bank had to have the same access to State Road that they have now. Mr. Arrington stated there is no requirement that their current access be maintained by law. They cannot be denied access but the City does not have to maintain the same ones. Mrs. Truby added that the developer can work with the individual property owners to work out a deal if they want.

Mr. Walters asked Council members about their availability for a special meeting next Tuesday, June 1. He was not sure he would be able to attend. If he does, he would most likely be late. Mr. Arrington stated as a point of order, there is no requirement that Council calls its committee on the first Monday of the month. Since there are only two ordinances to be discussed at the next committee meeting, he suggested that all regular committee meetings be called for next week so Council could use June 7 as its fifth Monday. That way, only a Special Council meeting for June 1 would need to be called.

Mary Myers, 1871 6th Street, stated this study has been completed for nine days. She asked if it had been released to the media. Mrs. Truby stated she does not release any information until it has been presented to Council first. Mrs. Myers appreciated that Council was holding this until next week. She felt Council should receive the full presentation before making a decision.

Committee recommended holding Temp. Ord. A-49.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.