

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting**  
**May 3, 2010**

**Members:** Kathy Hummel, Chair  
Don Walters  
Carol Klinger

Mrs. Hummel called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the April 19, 2010 and April 26, 2010 committee meetings were approved as submitted.

**Legislation Discussed:**

Temp. Ord. A-58

**Discussion**

**Temp. Ord. A-58**

An ordinance increasing appropriations for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant in the General Fund, Line Item Other Operations and Capital Projects Fund and authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the capital projects itemized in the grant agreement and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated she provided Council with summary sheets involving eight different activities. Mrs. Hummel stated there were two small amounts on Activities 5 and 6. One shows \$5,000 for Administration. She asked what that entailed. Mr. Guerra stated it related to energy audits. It may be needed for revolving loan fund. The amount would be used to hire from outside. Mrs. Hummel commended the Department for getting this grant. She knows windows have been an issue for years, as well as the pump at the water treatment plant.

***Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-58.***

**Temp. Ord. A-47**

An emergency ordinance declaring improvements to certain parcels of real property to be a public purpose, describing the public improvements to be made to directly benefit such parcels, requiring the owner of the improvements on such parcels to make service payments in lieu of taxes, establishing a municipal public improvement tax increment equivalent fund for the deposit of such service payments, and authorizing a compensation agreement with the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, and related authorizations pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.40, 5709.42 and 5709.43, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Truby stated she will not bother recapping what occurred at the School Board meeting the previous week since all of Council was present. Earlier this evening, she was informed that the School Board voted 5-0 to accept this agreement. There were two changes to the language. One was on page three, Section 3 requiring the City to provide a summary of expenses related to the improvement and the income tax associated with the parcel. The other was on the same page in Section 5, where they added paragraphs (A) and (B). Everything else remained the same. The original presentation on January was a 75/25 split of income tax. Now it is a 78/22 split of the total pot. This means that the School District went from \$171,000 to \$245,000, and the City has a 8.5% decrease from \$737,000 to \$675,000. Mrs. Hummel stated the School Board meeting the previous week was lengthy. She appreciated that Mrs. Colavecchio was able to arrange the joint meeting and for members of Administration to go over this

again for everyone to hear the issues on behalf of the School Board. She appreciates the willingness to move forward on this.

Pauline Larson, a resident on Thomas Ct., stated she was against this project moving forward. She was concerned about how much the School Board was giving up. This is a private owner who is going to use the taxpayers' money for the next 30 years to build himself a business to make money. Mrs. Hummel asked Mr. Brodzinski to address Mrs. Larson's concern about money. Mr. Brodzinski stated the City is not just giving him money. Mrs. Larson stated she was aware the City wasn't going to just give him money but what the City is giving him is something worth \$17 million that the citizens are going to pay for, and it will be money paid for the project over the next 30 years that will not be going to the City.

Mayor Robart stated Mrs. Larson was confused on many issues. Council is aware that it is important that a city reinvest in itself. He used the Sheraton as an example. The City provided the Sheraton with incentives and \$5 million in loans. That money was paid off very rapidly. Now, the hotel pays \$50,000 a month to some government agency--schools, state or local agency--and has provided jobs for over 20 years. A city has to provide for growth or it will die. The vast majority of citizens want Portage Crossings and they want it to succeed. This will be a great growth opportunity. He felt it was unfortunate that Mrs. Larson saw it another way. Mrs. Larson stated she knew many people who were opposed to the project but stated they were afraid to voice their disapproval. Mrs. Hummel hoped that business people were not afraid to come and speak their mind before Council. She has not had many calls about this project. She talked to people along the way and opinion seemed to be evenly split. There have been many public meetings on this project. Council has made its decision and will be voting on it tonight. All discussions have taken place publicly. She has been willing to listen to anyone who wanted to express an opinion. Once the decision was made to purchase the shopping center, that decision was popular with the community. She would not have voted to take it off the tax duplicate just to have it sit for years.

***Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-47.***

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.