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Regular Meeting

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Agency: Cuyahoga Falls City Council

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Summary

- Several businesses are opening or moving locations in Cuyahoga Falls, including a Sheetz location on Graham Road, an Akron Children's opening on Portage Trail, and Akron Polymer Solutions moving from Akron to Cuyahoga Falls.
- Many streets are proposed to be resurfaced pending a vote from council.
- There was \$72.5 million in new investment in the city last year.

Follow-Up Questions

- What is the Merriman Valley Schumacher Community Reinvestment Area? Is there a certain incentive for building or leasing in this area?
- What could the carry-over Community Development Block Grant funds be used for? What project were they left over from?

Editor's note: Learn more about the [Merriman Valley Schumacher Community Reinvestment Area here.](#)

Notes:

The Cuyahoga Falls City Council meeting (held at the Natatorium on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.) was called to order promptly and roll call was taken. [All council members](#) were present, along with Mayor Don Walters and other city employees. About 10 people were in the audience.

Ward 2 Council Member Susan Spinner started the meeting with an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, council [reviewed new ordinances](#).

New legislation

Two resolutions would rezone land for business purposes. The first is to rezone an outdoor sales lot at [41 Steels Corners Road](#) for Falls Investment Properties LLC/Valley Motors. The second is to rezone three land parcels, about 3.86 acres, on [Wyoga Lake Road](#) from rural neighborhood to an employment district. [Alro Steel](#) will complete an expansion of the manufacturing facility at 4787 State Road. There will be a public hearing about this rezoning request on March 17, at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers.

Another resolution would carry over \$707,317 in Community Development Block Grant funds from 2024 to the 2025 budget.

A resolution to enter into a contract with GAI Consultants for the annual resurfacing and repair program which includes the following streets:

Exhibit A

2025 Street Resurfacing List

SEARL STREET
SILVER LAKE AVENUE
SUNCREST CIRCLE
SUNCREST DRIVE
TREESIDE DRIVE
VALLEY ROAD
VALLEY VIEW DRIVE
WILLIS STREET
WYOGA LAKE BOULEVARD

TALLMADGE
13 TH
SUNCREST
MUNROE FALLS
WYOGA LAKE BLVD
PORTAGE TRAIL
END
ORLEN
WYOGA LAKE ROAD

BROADWAY E.
LILLIS
END
BAILEY
E. CORP LINE
STATE
GRANT
MUNROE FALLS
CORP LINE

**Exhibit A****2025 Street Resurfacing List**

<u>STREET</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
10 TH STREET	ROOSEVELT	SILVER LAKE
10 TH STREET	CHESTNUT	SACKETT
17 TH STREET	GRANT	HIGHBRIDGE
20 TH STREET	HIGHBRIDGE	GRANT
7 TH STREET	CHESTNUT	SACKETT
7 TH STREET	SACKETT	BROAD
7 TH STREET	ROOSEVELT	LINCOLN
AMERICANA DRIVE	CHATEAU	S. END
ANDERSON ROAD	MUNROE FALLS	MYRTLE
ANTOINETTE DRIVE	E. END	W. END
ARDELLA ROAD	PHILLIPS	HOFFMAN
BATH ROAD WEST	E. CORP LINE	NORTHAMPTON ROAD
BEACON HILL CIRCLE	BUCKINGHAM GATE	END
BROADWAY EAST	NEWBERRY	GERMAINE
CHATEAU DRIVE	WYOGA LAKE	AMERICANA
CROWN POINTE PARKWAY	HAAS	CROWNE RIDGE
CROWN RIDGE DRIVE	END	END
DREXMORE DRIVE	RAVENSHOLLOW	200' south
DWIGHT STREET	NORTHMORELAND	N. END
DWIGHT STREET	NORTHMORELAND	S. END
FRANCIS AVENUE	2 ND	9 TH
GARFIELD AVENUE	NORTHLAND	END
GARFIELD AVENUE	IRONWOOD	NORTHLAND
HANOVER STREET	BAILEY	BROADWAY E
HIGH STREET	CENTER	PORTAGE TRAIL
JENNINGS AVENUE	BAILEY	OAKWOOD
KENNEDY BOULEVARD	BAILEY	GOLF COURSE
KEYSER PARKWAY	HILLBROOK	CHART ROAD
LEHIGH AVENUE	HUDSON	CHARLES
LEIGHTON AVENUE	11 TH	12 TH
LEIGHTON AVENUE	10 TH	11 TH
MEREDITH LANE	NORTHAMPTON	CORP LINE
NORONA DRIVE	WYOGA LAKE BLVD.	END
ORLEN AVENUE	BAILEY	END
PHILLIPS DRIVE	WOODBROOK	ARDELLA
QUEENS GATE CIRCLE	BUCKINGHAM GATE	END
RAVENSHOLLOW DRIVE	KEYSER PARKWAY	N. END
ROCKLEDGE TRAIL	END	END
ROOSEVELT AVENUE	OAKWOOD	ELMWOOD
SCALA DRIVE	NORONA	TREESIDE

The last resolution would allow the city to enter into an agreement with Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) for the NOPEC Energized Community Grant this year for energy efficiency or infrastructure projects.

Council moved to committee reports and voted in favor of several resolutions. [Full resolutions here.](#)

The first is to enter into a contract with Flock Group, Inc. to provide and maintain traffic cameras at critical intersections, assisting safety forces in the enforcement of traffic laws and investigations. According to the ordinance, the city contracted with Flock Group in 2023 and is choosing to contract with them this year without competitive bidding.

Council approved several contracts for road resurfacing. These projects are funded through the city's Capital Projects Fund, according to the resolution.

- Osborn Engineering was selected to resurface Bailey Road from Front Street to Graham Road.
- GAI Consultants was selected to resurface Monroe Falls Avenue from Bailey Road to city limits.

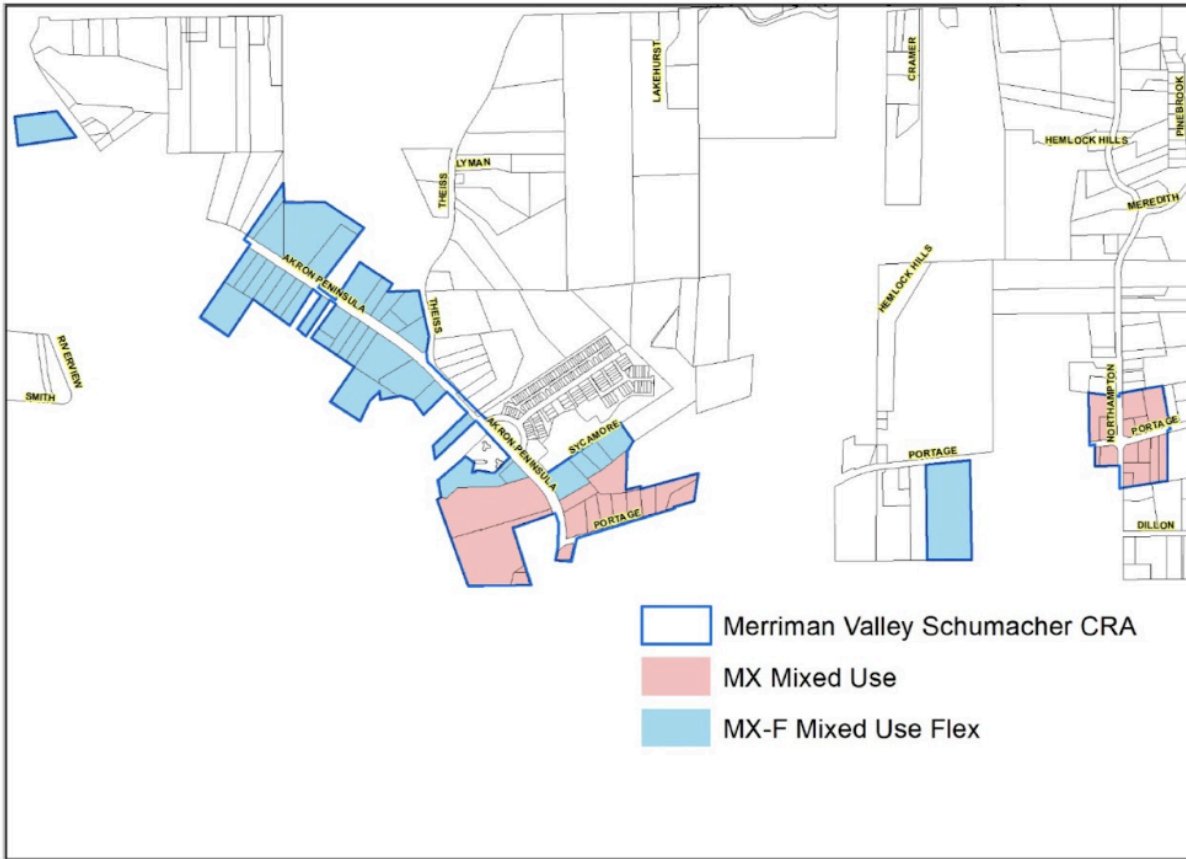
An amendment will be made to the "traffic control file" to include various stop signs, no parking signs, and a speed limit sign located in The Glens subdivision between Front Street and Second Street.

The mayor will enter an agreement with the Ohio Attorney General Collection Enforcement Section to collect past due, unpaid fines and court costs for the Mayor's Court.

An addition to the nuisance code will add burdock, thistles, leafy spurge, field bindweed, tree of heaven, sumac, and bamboo to the list of plants considered nuisances on private property.

Another resolution will establish the boundaries of the Merriman Valley Schumacher Community Reinvestment Area. Here is a snapshot of the mapped area.

Exhibit A – Merriman Valley Schumacher CRA Map



The next committee meetings will be held on Feb. 3 starting at 6:30 p.m.

Full copies of these resolutions can be found [here](#).

Deputy Fire Chief Matt Kee gave an update on the firefighters' memorial being constructed in front of Station 1. Kee said there have been some delays on the project due to higher-than-expected costs and other factors. He said he expects the project to wrap up this summer. Kee thanked Ward 5 Council Member Michael Brillhart for purchasing the city's antique fire trucks, which are now owned by the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Fighter Memorial Foundation.

<https://fallsfirememorial.org/members-of-the-board/>

Next, [Community Development Director Diana Colavecchio](#) discussed the year-end economics report, comparing progress from 2023 to 2024. Here are key takeaways:

- 264 new jobs have come to the city
- \$72.5 million worth of new investment in the city, down from 2023

- Akron Children's has broken ground for a medical center on Portage Trail
- Akron Polymer Solutions has moved to its new location on Wyoga Lake Road from the city of Akron
- Black Dog Baking is renovating its new location on Graham Road (used to be inside HiHo Brewery)
- Caring for Kids, formerly located in the old BMV building on Graham Road, is now in a new location on Graham Road Circle. Colavecchio said jobs were preserved.
- Ohio Kids Dental submitted plans to renovate the former Family Video on Bailey Road
- 7 Brew Coffee opened on Howe Avenue
- The Glens Townhome project on South Front Street has started
- There will be a new Sheetz at 650 Graham Road
- Ohio Brewing has been bought by Burntwood and Leo's and will reopen as a restaurant

[Finance Director Bryan Hoffman](#) gave a report on 2024 finances. He said the city ended the year with about a \$25.5 million balance, the highest in the city's history. Income tax was up 5.1% over 2023, a \$1.86 million balance for construction and maintenance leaves some room for purchasing road salt, revenue for both the Natatorium and Waterworks were up, and the self-insurance fund had \$8.3 million in expenses including increases in hospitalizations and prescription drug costs, said Hoffman.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.