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Regular Meeting

Documenter name: Kelley Sayre

Agency: Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Date: Feb. 23, 2026

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Summary

- Cuyahoga Falls City Council met on Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. to vote on business moving out of standing committees; all legislation passed 11-0 for every vote
- Temporary ordinance business included authorizing members of staff or the mayor to enter into a legal settlement, contracts and agreements from paving roads, receiving a grant for energy efficiency projects, and a land transfer
- Finance Director Bryan Hoffman reported on the city's financial standing, highlighting increased costs for 2026 over 2025 for harsh winter weather taking a toll on roads, and the increase in revenue during a warm spell at the city's golf driving range

Follow-Up Questions

- What is "Report 21"? It was mentioned in connection with Hoffman's reporting of the city's financial situation. I searched Report 21, and the closest I can get is a May 2025 [five-year projection report](#) for the Cuyahoga Falls School District. On page 6, it states: "The Joint Committee on Property Taxation and Reform released their

report to the General Assembly in January 2025 and outlined twenty-one (21) recommendations on actions that could be taken to restrict local tax growth for Ohio school districts.” So, are the 21 recommendations now referred to as “Report 21”? Or is it something else?

- Where is Exhibit A, the list of roads to be paved (A-10)? (Editor’s note: it can be found [here](#), though it wasn’t available at the meeting.)

Notes

- [Agenda](#)
- [List of ordinances up for full council vote](#)
- [2026 Cuyahoga Falls City Council members](#)
- [2026 committee assignments](#)

Start time 6:30 p.m., with two members slightly late for the Pledge of Allegiance.

After roll call and approval of last week’s meeting minutes, there was no new legislation put forward, so the council moved to vote on legislation coming out of standing committees.

Finance & Appropriations

Temp. Ord. A-9 Legal Claim, passed 11-0

Authorizing the Director of Law to enter a settlement of a legal claim.

Public & Industrial Improvements

Temp. Ord. A-10 Road Resurfacing & Repair, passed 11-0

Authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into contracts for the annual resurfacing and road repair within the city. Roads to be paved were in [Exhibit A](#) of the meeting.

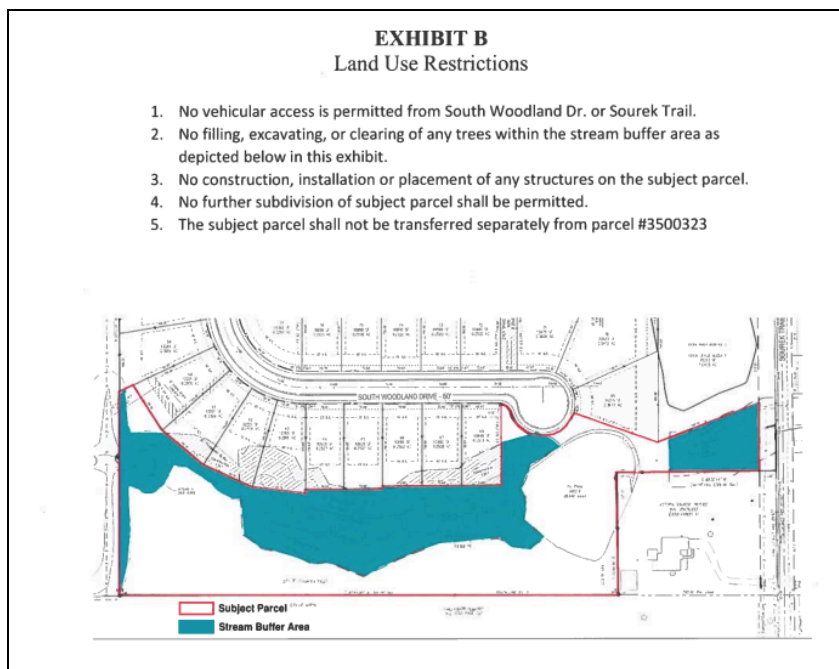
Public Affairs

Temp. Ord. A-12 NOPEC Energized Community Grant, passed 11-0

Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a grant agreement with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council for energy projects.

Temp. Ord. A-13 Transfer of Open Space Block E property to Kenneth D. Smith for \$1, passed 11-0

Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract to transfer city property to an individual in Woodland Preserves subdivision. [The parcel](#) in question is just north of the Akron city limits, west of Sourek Trail and south of a row of homes on S. Woodland Drive. According to the [ordinance](#), the property was “dedicated” to the city in the final Woodlands Preserves final subdivision plat and transferred to the city in July 2020. Neither the city nor the HOA want the property. It was unclear from the meeting or ordinance who Smith is. See below for land use restrictions.



Community Development

No report

Afterwards, all committees reported that they had no new business or pending legislation and reported “Subject to Call.”

After voting finished, the meeting was turned over to Finance Director Bryan Hoffman to give an oral report (“Report 21”) of the city’s financial situation regarding the first month of 2026.

Key takeaways from the report:

- The general fund has not yet received its portion of the first half of the year property taxes. Funds typically arrive in late April and early May. Hoffman expressed surprise that, “local government, county and State of Ohio line items are up approximately 11% over 2025.” Budget projections had anticipated flat shared taxes for 2026, so Hoffman said it was an area “to keep an eye on.”
- Income tax is down \$200,000 for the first month of 2026, but Hoffman thinks the city will still be able to meet budgetary projections. Income tax collection has been flat for the past couple of years, and that is similar to surrounding communities.
- Street construction and repair costs are anticipated to be much higher this year due to the harsh winter conditions, but the city budgeted for this. Budgetary savings are in the Street Maintenance Fund from previous winters, where repair costs were less than expected.
- Parks & Rec facilities in 2026 over 2025 are up 3.8%. Membership numbers are slightly up. Other facilities besides the Natatorium are weather-dependent. The golf driving range was busy during the recent warm spell.

Ward 8 Council Member Frank Stams had a question off-topic from Report 21. He asked if Cuyahoga Falls had any discussions or plans to invoice the federal government for the tariffs that have been imposed on Cuyahoga Falls residents this past year. Hoffman said he was unaware of any internal discussions on that. Hoffman said such affairs were “kind of out of the city domain when it comes to our taxation and invoicing powers.” He said he “would be happy to look into any remedies the city could take on behalf of the residents regarding ... tariff costs to them that would be reimbursable.”

Council President Russ Balthis then thanked all the city employees who worked overtime during the harsh winter weather. Balthis said the weather can be quite tough on the city’s infrastructure.

End time 6:45 p.m.