

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Special Committee Meeting
November 8, 2010

Members: Mr. James, Chair
Mr. Walters
Mrs. Pyke

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. All members were present.

Discussion

Mr. James stated the purpose of the Special Committee meeting was to discuss the Mayor's selection of Tom Pozza as the new Police Chief. Mr. James stated it gave him great pleasure to head this committee because he has known Tom Pozza since they were nine years old. He has found that Tom is a straight-shooter and a great person and feels he will make a wonderful Police Chief. He believes the Mayor made history by selecting someone who was born and raised in Cuyahoga Falls.

Mayor Robart stated it was an honor to offer Capt. Pozza the Police Chief position. He has been on the force for 30 years and has the experience, education and background necessary for the job. He also has great integrity and is a good family man. The Mayor noted that Fire Chief Moledor was present in support of Capt. Pozza, as well. He stated that the City was in the envious position in that there were two fine Captains qualified for the Police Chief position. Mayor Robart felt that Capt. Davis holds a lot of the same characteristics as Capt. Pozza and will be Police Chief some day. It was just Capt. Pozza's time.

Capt. Pozza thanked Council, the Mayor and the Administration for giving him this opportunity to lead the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department and is looking forward to the challenge. He felt his background and education has prepared him to lead the Department. He thanked everyone for their support.

Mrs. Pyke congratulated Capt. Pozza. She asked him if he considered himself proactive or reactive. Capt. Pozza stated he is more proactive. His philosophy has been to be aggressive and fair. He wants to impart that to the Police Department. He added there are a few changes in the works that will exhibit his philosophy of being proactive. Mrs. Pyke asked whether he felt a police chief needed to be seen in the public and did he intend to be seen. Capt. Pozza answered "yes" to both questions. He is not afraid to get out and be seen. He has been known to show up on calls as a captain but not too often. He is not a micromanager, but feels the Chief of Police should not just sit at a desk and be an "unknown." He also plans to make appearances on the different shifts to get input from the officers. He feels good ideas can come from anyone. Mrs. Pyke stated the City is coming up on a tough time with the budget and asked if he felt ready for that. Capt. Pozza stated he has been somewhat involved in the budget process since he was a Captain. They have changed some of the budgeting process internally, and it is better now. They have worked with Bill Lohan, who has been handy in showing them different ways on handling the budget. He feels very prepared for the process. Mrs. Pyke asked if he will be keeping an open-door policy for Council members. Capt. Pozza stated absolutely.

Mr. Walters stated he was proud to have Capt. Pozza at the top leading the troops and congratulated him. Mr. Mader echoed what has been said. He is looking forward to Capt. Pozza taking the head position. Mrs. Colavecchio wanted to extend a heartfelt thanks to Capt. Pozza for accepting this position. He is well qualified. She added it is nice to know someone took the job internally. Mrs. Pyke asked whether Capt. Pozza attended Falls High School. Capt. Pozza indicated he had and that he graduated in 1975.

Kenny King of Sutcliffe II stated Capt. Pozza does a fine job. He is proud of him.

Mr. James stated he is also a proud member of the Class of '75 along with John Konich and Jeff McHugh. Mr. James is proud of Capt. Pozza and feels he will do a wonderful job. Mr. James has always gotten along with Chief Conley and is sorry to see him go, but he is glad Capt. Pozza will be taking his place.

Mrs. Pyke moved to approve bringing the Mayor's selection of Capt. Pozza as Chief of Police out of Committee with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Walters. Motion passed, voice vote (3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.