

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
May 4, 2009

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Debbie Ritzinger
Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the April 20, 2009 and the April 27, 2009 committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-39

Temp. Ord. B-40

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-39

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts according to law for the purchase of the Quirk Cultural Center and, as consideration therefor, the design and construction of six lighted tennis courts at the Cuyahoga Falls High School campus, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Walters stated this was a continued discussion from the previous week. He asked whether there was an indication about how things went with Dr. Holland's presentation to the School Board the previous week. Ed Stewart stated he had not heard back but that Mr. Lohan did and he felt everything was fine. Mr. Walters stated that people in the area thought this was a good deal for the City. He was hopeful that some common ground could be found to keep some of the other courts despite their condition. He felt a lot of the public may not care that the court isn't perfect shape and wouldn't mind cracks here or there. Mr. Stewart stated they did some research over the past several years and everyone they talked to felt the cracks were unfixable. If they were to just patch, paint and restripe the Valley Vista courts, it would still cost approximately \$15,000. This legislation would give the City eight good courts. If they find that the demand is there, they will revisit the matter regarding the other courts. The cost of recoating and striping the Kaiser courts would be between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Mrs. Klinger asked how 15 out of 17 courts fell into such disrepair. Mr. Stewart stated that repairing the courts was in their plans over the past several years but kept getting bumped by other projects. They identified the issue and decided to get the basketball courts done and then move forward with the tennis courts later. Mrs. Klinger was sorry things got into this position but felt that this legislation was a good deal. Mr. Brodzinski commented that the tennis courts got into the condition they are in by the City using them for ice skating. They developed cracks that have been repaired but over time, the cracks got deeper and are now unable to be repaired. Priorities change each year. The amount of tennis being played was going down so the money went to other items that were higher priority. Mr. Walters agreed. He stated the cracks do not bother him but he did not consider himself an

avid player. Even if a court is not up to standards, people may not object to that. Players could also play up at the high school. Mr. Stewart stated that some of the cracks were quite wide. Mr. Mader stated he had spoken with Mr. Lohan about this legislation last week. With discussions between the School Board Superintendent and Mr. Lohan, the details have been worked out. He feels the City should be co-partners with the schools. That is a win-win situation. This legislation is a benefit to both the school system and the City. Mrs. Colavecchio asked which open range the funds that had been budgeted for had been planned to be cleaned up. Mr. Arrington stated it was the police firing range at Alden Sand and Gravel. Mr. James agreed with Mr. Mader and Mrs. Klinger. This was good for the City and for the Board of Education. He asked whether Mr. Stewart had received and calls from residents regarding the pros and cons of closing the remaining courts. Mr. Stewart stated they have received not one comment so far. Mr. James asked whether they thought people would walk to Kennedy to play sand volleyball. Mr. Stewart answered that Kristen is the Program Director and she felt the volleyball area could be used by kids during the day and by leagues in the evening. Mr. James felt that was a good idea because those tennis courts were in terrible shape and just sit vacant. Mrs. Pyke asked when construction of the new courts would begin at the high school. Mr. Stewart believed they should be finished by mid-October. They plan to remove the old courts. He added that they plan to do as much work as they can in-house.

Dr. Holland stated that he and Mr. Lohan worked on this idea for approximately six months. It would allow services to be expanded at Quirk Center while providing additional services to the community. They currently have approximately 300 kids in gym classes at the high school who would also use the courts through Phys. Ed. during the day and for matches in the evening. He is appreciative of this opportunity.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-39.

Temp. Ord. B-40

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts according to law for the purchase of digital vehicular repeater systems, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Moledor stated they have a grant to purchase this repeater system. He said that with every radio system, there are always areas where radios do not work. These are units that would go into four vehicles and one would be a portable unit. When squads are in one of the silent areas, they can park the vehicles around the area and be able to pick up transmissions. It is relatively new technology. The first couple units were deployed in the City of Akron and were quite successful. It is a local vendor through Motorola. Mr. Walters stated this is in the name of safety and it helps to get grant money as well, which makes it a minimal cost to the City. Mrs. Klinger confirmed that the funds would be coming from the capital projects fund. She asked whether there were maintenance costs associated with this. Chief Moledor indicated they were minimal. Maintenance is rolled into the regular 800 system cost. There should not be additional costs. He believes there is a one-year warranty but will check.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-40.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.