

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**May 19, 2003**

Members: Mr. Gorbach, Chair  
Mr. Schmidt  
Mr. Barnhart

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. All members of committee were present.

The minutes from the April 21, 2003 and May 5, 2003 Finance Committee meetings were approved as submitted.

**LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

Temp. Ord. No. B-76  
Temp. Ord. No. B-77

**DISCUSSION**

Temp. Ord. No. B-76

Mr. Gorbach read B-76 (second reading). Mr. Pierson gave a brief background of the plans leading up to the construction a new natatorium facility. He stated that one of the issues that stood out when their committee toured other facilities was that the facility manager was brought on board early on in the project. Mr. Pierson indicated that it was also recommended in the City's plan that this individual be on board as soon as possible. It is important because this individual must learn all aspects involved in running the facility. Mr. Gorbach stated everyone received a letter dated May 16 regarding the position and the position description. This is a \$24 million facility and we want it run well. Our review indicated this facility would pay for itself. He also pointed out that Mr. Pierson and his two assistant superintendents are already extremely busy. He is in favor of this legislation and believes it is important for someone to be on board as soon as possible.

Mr. Schmidt asked if this position was in the plan from the beginning. Mr. Pierson stated it was, and indicated that they would actually be hiring this individual six months later than they wanted. They missed last fall's staffing ordinance for 2003, and if they do not do it now, they would have to wait until next fall. They hope to have someone on board in August or September. Mr. Schmidt asked if they would be advertising for the position in magazines and journals in the industry. Mr. Pierson stated they would but not just within their industry. He felt that with everything that would be involved in running the facility, the individual would not need to come solely from the Parks and Recreation area. For example, they will need someone who understands the partnership lease with Summa, as well as

other potential partnerships they are looking into. Mr. Barnhart stated he is in favor of this. He believes it makes sense to have a director.

Mrs. Klinger asked if Mr. Pierson had anyone on staff who would be qualified for the position. Mr. Pierson stated they would open it up to anyone who would be interested. They would take a strong look at what individuals can do and evaluate them to see if they could meet the requirements. He pointed out that, in the essence of time, they will be opening it up and advertising from the beginning. Mrs. Klinger asked if they plan to bring someone from another operating facility. Mr. Pierson stated that would be nice. It would be interesting to see who is out there looking. Mrs. Klinger felt it was best to put the management team in place before the doors open. The City has a lot invested in this facility and it cannot afford to not have a qualified individual running it.

Mr. James asked if Mr. Pierson sees anyone standing out right now. Mr. Pierson stated that other than individuals on staff, he does not know. Mr. Potts stated he supports the legislation. We need someone at the top to run it. He asked if they planned to utilize current staff and also if they would need additional personnel. Mr. Pierson indicated they would use current staff and most definitely would be hiring additional people. Going back to Mrs. Klinger's comment, he stated it would be nice to have an experienced person out there to see what experience they could bring to this facility. They are building this facility based on what the community says it would like to have. They can't say they'll deliver services but then cut down on staff making it hard to deliver. They will have more full time employees than there are now. Currently, they have over 100 part time staff and, in the middle of the summer, they have around 450 part timers. They are still working on what they will need exactly. He knows they will have a facility director and supervisory positions under the director. They also need to consider seasonal needs. Mr. Potts asked if they will be budgeting for more people next year. Mr. Pierson indicated they would.

Mr. Flinn stated he was very supportive of hiring this person. He has had experience in opening new facilities and it was very helpful that he got on board early for things such as learning the community, staff, expectations of the guests, etc. He asked was the timetable was. Mr. Pierson stated they would advertise immediately upon approval. It will take a month to advertise, a month to interview and a month to pull that person away from another job.

Mrs. Pyke thanked Council for its support on this issue. She feels that of all decisions involved with this project, this is the biggest. She feels it is important for this person to understand the people and the mechanics.

Mr. Walters stated this position is obviously needed to be in place as soon as possible. He inquired about the construction schedule. Mr. Pierson stated that some contractors are ahead and some contractors are behind. They have two more bids to open and will not be able to narrow down an opening date until the end of the year. He is sticking to opening in the summer of 2004.

Committee recommended bringing out B-76.

Temp. Ord. No. B-77

Mr. Gorbach read B-77 (second reading). Mr. Pierson stated that when the natatorium project began, they agreed that any property in the vicinity should be evaluated to see if it would be prudent to purchase it. The purchase of this property will give some parking and, more importantly, an additional ingress and egress onto Third Street. As they acquire more property in the future, this property will be key in developing more parking. Mr. Gorbach pointed out that the City is not spending this kind of money for 15 or 16 parking spots. The current homeowners know we are interested in the properties. We are increasing the size of the Natatorium. We cannot do that and not offer people more parking.

Mrs. Pyke asked if there were any plans to buffer the property to the immediate east of Lot C. She stated that when people park in the lot, it is practically right up against the property owners' door. Mr. Pierson stated there originally was a tree that was between the property and the lot and indicated the property owner requested the tree to be removed. If she has since changed her mind, they will certainly do something to help her situation. Mrs. Pyke stated she will talk to Mr. Pierson later.

Mr. Gorbach also stated that appraisals were done and that this legislation was in line with surrounding homes. It makes good business sense to purchase this property.

Committee recommended bringing out B-77.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.