

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

December 19, 2005

Members: Mr. Flinn, Chairman; Mr. Barnhart, Vice Chair; Mr. Gorbach, Member.

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:50 p.m. All members were present. The minutes of December 12, 2005 were approved as submitted.

Scheduled Legislation:

B-172	An Ordinance establishing compensation levels for non-bargaining employees of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for calendar years 2006, 2007 and 2008, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Brodzinski indicates this is a 3% pay raise increase for 2006, 3% for 2007 and 3.2% increase for 2008. This is for all employees that are not members of the union.

The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. B-172

B-173	An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to purchase real property located at 836 Albermarle, and declaring an emergency.
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Mrs. Truby indicates this is a 50 x 100 piece of property with a significant drop-off and a very expensive lot to build on. This could be a trailhead into the park or into the gorge. The owner had an appraisal done at \$38,000 and we had one done at \$21,000. We agreed to \$28,000. Mrs. Pyke indicates this property is at the curve going down 9th Street. The topography of the land is beautiful and this meets the Open Space criteria. Mrs. Klinger sat through a potential owner's attempt to build a house and she is grateful that it didn't go through. It is perfect for the Open Space. The staircase that MetroParks will have to build will be amazing and they wish to invest into this development. An entranceway into the gorge and beautiful area will be stunning according to Mrs. Pyke. Mrs. Truby indicates there is limited parking and this is more for the local residents. Mrs. Hummel asks who will assume ownership? The city will make the initial improvements and according to Virgil Arrington, our intentions right now are to maintain ownership. The whole idea was to keep it as Open Space according to Mrs. Pyke.

Mike Johnson, 816 Arcadia Ave: As far as the MetroParks are concerned, the property can be owned by either. If the city owns it, we would enter into a long-term management agreement. Mr. Walters asks about the substantial guardrails? Mrs. Truby indicates this area will be re-worked.

The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. B-172

Held Legislation:

B-125	An Ordinance amending section 151.06 of the codified ordinances and declaring an emergency.
B-165	An Ordinance providing for current operating expenses of the city of Cuyahoga Falls by appropriating, re-appropriating and transferring money within and for the various funds hereinafter set forth, and declaring an emergency.
B-166	An Ordinance adopting the report of staffing for the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the Year 2006 and declaring an emergency.

The Finance Committee recessed at 7:05 p.m. and reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Community Block Grant:

Our funding is on a July-June calendar, and we operate on January- December. Federal mandates put specific requirements on us and the budget of \$750,000. \$17,500 is for the Fair Housing Study and we are doing a new project house every year. We do not have 0% loans for commercial, and do have some for the residents. We are estimating we will receive CDBG Funds around \$718,000. This is a 10% decrease from the previous year.

Street:

There is a decrease in the budget of 3.04% due to asphalt and capital outlay. Are we using less asphalt? Joe indicates it is more capital in nature vs. repair. It is being budgeted out of capital expenses. Mr. Novak indicates the new Epokes are currently saving us 66%, but we haven't had any BIG storms, just a few little ones. Good results and the drivers have embraced the units and they see the benefits. Street Stripping materials have increase significantly. The glass beads for reflectivity and new rules on lining have driven the prices up.

Electric:

This is an increase of 12.51% due to purchased power costs and capital items such as 23kv line protection with fiber (\$75,000), 23 kv Underground Cable Repair (\$720,000) replacement, Hollywood Underground (\$220,000), Alternative Fuel Vehicle (\$30,000), transformers (\$205,000), poles \$(11,250), switches (\$175,250), test equipment (\$35,000), underground equipment (\$75,000) and LED Project (\$153,000). Mr. Gorbach asks about the increased purchase power. Mr. Bye indicates it is due to increase gas prices. Mrs. Klinger asks about the transformers of \$205,000? Last year, the capital was based on \$2500. There were transformers that moved from last years that moved to this year. The cost is going up because the capital threshold went up.

Engineering:

This is a reduction of 2.52% for personal services relating to one Asst. City Engineer being budgeted in the Building Department.

Building:

This is an increase 17.42% due to the Asst. City Engineer being budgeted in the Building Department, increase in direct charges, and other indirect charges. Some of the things are in place because of the software we implemented.

Park and Recreation:

This is an increase of .18% with four capital requests of a zero turn mower, leaf blower, vehicle lift, and Webtrac Software (1/6 cost allocation). Youth sports activities revenue is increasing and expenses will also increase.

Recreation Levy Fund

This is a decrease in budgeted expenditure of 7.05%. Mudd Run grant could come through during the next year and we have to match that. Mr. Olivia indicates we have 2-3 years to complete those. If we do the design work in 2006, this gives us time to complete the projects. We are fairly confident we are getting that grant. Mr. Potts asked about the Carrie Swain barn. We need to do a complete siding project. The barn is sound and we met with a barn restoration expert and these are types of things we may need to get that funded next year. Mr. Gorbach asks about the transfer out of \$750,000? Mr. Brodzinski will discuss under Leisure Time.

Mr. Nelsch asks about the development of parks in Ward 8? We have been setting aside money from developers to purchase. Next year, we are looking at property that may be purchased for park space.

Leisure Time:

Change of 4.07% increase due to personal services and utilities within the Natatorium. Mr. Brodzinski indicates there is a transfer of \$750,000 for the Natatorium on their revenue side. This is projected to be done over the next five years. Mr. Gorbach indicates this was not part of the original analysis of the Nat. Is the expense side too high with the Nat? Or is it the revenue too low? Mr. Brodzinski indicates we are paying down notes prior to going to bonds and working on bringing up the membership by 2010. In 2006, we are

looking to add value to our annual pass. We are in the process of targeting the seniors in the area and looking at their needs with geriatric classes, therapy pool, or simply just walking the track. Corporate Wellness is an area that we want to develop in 2006. Waterworks has hit a plateau. We did see a decrease in annual memberships, but we are marketing off the weather from last year and aggressively pursuing increased memberships. Mrs. Hummel asks more about the revenue side of the Natatorium. It appears the 2006 revenue is nearly double and is this realistic? We are looking at 1000 new members with a 70/30 split with bank drafts. Mrs. Hummel asks about the \$229,000 general fund transfer, which Joe confirms will happen for the next five years. Mrs. Hummel indicates there was an additional 1.6 million to carry us through identifying annual memberships. These are ancillary costs, not "hardware" or equipment. Mrs. Klinger indicates that video conferencing and expanding our conference center is in our best interests.

The Finance Committee/Committee of the Whole was adjourned at 10:03 p.m. and will continue on December 27, 2005.