

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

September 20, 2004

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

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:36 p.m. All members of Committee were present. The minutes from July 19, 2004 & September 7, 2004 Finance and Appropriations Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Pieces of Legislation this evening (second readings):

A-133	An Ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract or contracts according to law for the operation of the Falls River Square Ice Rink, and declaring an emergency.
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Mrs. Truby indicates this ordinance is for the ice rink operations. Ice Rink Events are the experts in this area and she relied heavily on their expertise. The Ice skating rink will be open 7 days a week beginning November 27, 2004 through February 26, 2005. The hours are broken into two categories – in and out of school. There will be an admission fee of \$5 for non-residents, and residents will be free. Skate rental will be \$3.00 and the length of time on the ice is approximately 1 ½ hrs for each skater. Based on an estimated minimum volume of 12,000 or 22,000 skaters, revenue projections would be \$60,000 to \$110,000 respectively based on a 60/40 split resident/nonresident fees.

All expenses are estimated based on our rink size and projected volume of skaters. There are 400 pair of ice skates required with is \$24,890. The rink management fees are \$45,000.00. Finally there are the Zamboni Ice Resurfacing Equipment and Thomsen Ice Edger Equipment rental of \$9900.00.

Ice Rink Events representatives Mike Clayton and Kevin Gifts are on hand for further explanation and questions. Sue continues to state that the ice skates will be the property of the City and will be housed at the site during operation then placed into storage. Ice Rink events are responsible for the care and sharpening of the skates during the season. Ice Rink Events will have few as one employee to ten employees at any one given time period. There will be 9-25 personnel on their payroll. Based on the 92 days of operation, this amounts to \$489 per day.

Mike Clayton from Ice Rink Events explains that the Zamboni shed is made of a modular fiberglass surface to house the vehicle. It will be able to secure the piece of equipment.

Mr. Flinn indicates he wanted to look into further operational time in October/March, but understands we are going with the experts' opinions and will tweak it as we go.

Mr. Gorbach questions the \$489 per day management fee and who pays for the many employees. Mike Clayton states this figure is an average of the season. The industry standards are 1 employee per 50 skaters. Sue indicates the skates should last 5 years if well taken care of and we will store them during the off-season.

Mrs. Hummel asks what type of rates Ice Rink Events pay their employees. Mr. Clayton states most of them are minimum wage high school aged kids. They compete with fast food restaurants. Virgil indicates the insurance falls onto the General Insurance of the City, not the operator. Mr. Walters asks about the lighting. Sue states that lighting may be an issue. She has people who are ready to assist us if additional lights are needed. Mr. Flinn asks her to consider a heating device for warming up while not on the ice. Mr. Gorbach reiterates that we definitely need to have concessions and some type of heating. If we are investing \$25,000 into skates, we need to secure these better.

Mayor Robart indicates he receives many inquiries about the ice skating rink. The key component part is concessions downtown. This is a social setting and we will encourage the tenants to be apart of this.

Mrs. Hummel hopes we offer the food vendors on the North end of the mall whether or not they would like to come down and service them with coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. We should provide signage to direct people to their business.

Mr. Flinn would like to cap this ordinance and include "Not to exceed \$80,000".

The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. A-133

A-134	An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for replacement of the waterline in Ardella Road from Hoffman Drive to Phillips Drive, then south in Phillips Drive to Woodbrook Road in the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Bell states this ordinance allows us to replace the waterline on Ardella. We need to replace the entire line since it has been repaired repeatedly. Mr. Flinn states this was budgeted for.

The committee recommends bringing out Temp. Ord. A-134

Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.