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From: Nick Tower - TLC-Team2 [TLC@towerliberty.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2008 3:26 PM
To: 'letters'
Subject: Swimming in Profits?

According to Mr. Snyder, 'someone' (an anonymous city staffer or board?) will be evaluating the pool proposals according to "Staffing levels, efficient management levels, and cost." The pool proposals are not available for public viewing, nor are the specifications for the pool, if there ever were any specifications given by the city to the would-be contractors.

No profit projections have been publicized. Apparently city leaders sees no reason to run the pool profitably, as long as 'their taxpayers' can be suckered into paying more sales taxes or mill levies to fund it. Or is this new pool going to actually be a money maker? Since no word has been printed nor is forth coming regarding the profitability of a new Salina pool, I suspect it will be. I can conclude then that city leader's approach amounts to "raise taxes like you won't make any profit, don't lower taxes after you do make profits, and don't reveal how profitable it really is."

I'm fairly certain a pool or 'water park' can be run at a profit... many cities have such entertainment venues. Just don't ask me to pay higher taxes for a new city pool. Whether it's a profit making project, or a money losing project, I don't have faith that it will be run well when funded by public means. This project is just a front for getting a new Expo Center passed, at taxpayer expense, after they build the new pool in the area of the current Expo center.

Let's make a private company to form a new water park, and remove from the city government a double-dipping revenue stream that really is a financial drain on Saline county residents. It was 5.5 million for a pool back in 2000, so you can wager it will cost more today. Considering that today the county only allocates 1.5 million for road and bridge maintenance per year, I'd say the city leaders have let the chlorine-tainted cash affect their judgment.

Regards,

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"One... with courage, makes a majority." - President Andrew Jackson