

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

MAY 8, 1975

The Committee on Finance meets this day in the Conference Room, City Hall, at 3:00 o'clock P.M.

Present: Chairman Lynch and Councilmen McKiernan, Crowley, Councilwoman Brassil, Councilmen Stravato, Garan and Bradshaw.

Also present by invitation are Finance Director Izzo, Acting City Assessor Donald M. Capuano and Edward Fenton of the City Assessor's Department. (Rose M. Mendonca, Assistant Clerk.)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1974-19, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974, BY APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$255,200.00) TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. Izzo states the Laborers' International Pension Fund is short \$173,000 due to change in legal fund adopted last January. This has to be appropriated so there will not be a deficit balance. Another item is outside repairs to automobiles, another is repair parts; he states this money has already been spent. This will balance the budget on the particular items.

Councilman McKiernan questions as to how the money is spent before being approved; and Mr. Izzo states the Police Department and the Public Works Department have always done this.

Discussion ensues relative to control of money spent without approval and what to do in the future about this matter.

Councilman McKiernan suggests continuing the above Ordinance in Committee and a representative of the Police Department be invited to appear and explain why the overrun.

It is the consensus of the Committee these questions can be asked when department heads are invited before the Committee for discussion on the budget.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to transmit the above Ordinance to the City Council with recommendation the same be Adopted.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1974-19, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974, BY TRANSFERRING CERTAIN SUMS OF MONEY WITHIN CERTAIN WATER DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. Izzo states this is the same Ordinance submitted except the last section had been omitted. It is only asking for transfers within certain items, no cost to the City, merely asking for transfers.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to transmit the above Ordinance, as amended, to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

On further motion of Councilman Stravato, seconded by Councilman McKiernan, it is voted to Postpone Indefinitely in Committee the above Ordinance.

May 8, 1975

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE  
CHAPTER 1974-19, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974, BY TRANS-  
FERRING CERTAIN SUMS OF MONEY WITHIN CERTAIN PUBLIC  
WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Izzo states this is a transfer from snow removal, they ended up with a surplus, therefore it is going to a revolving fund for repair parts and outside labor for Sewage Disposal.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to transmit the above Ordinance to the City Council with recommendation the same be Adopted.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF 1975 TAXES IN A SUM NOT LESS THAN FORTY-SEVEN MILLION NINE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX (\$47,902,776) DOLLARS, NOR MORE THAN FIFTY-SEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY (\$57,436,180) DOLLARS.

Discussion ensues as to when the tax roll has to be certified; also relative to tax collections and the decline in collections to 91%.

Chairman Lynch questions as to how bid a tax spread is involved and Mr. Izzo states from \$53.00 to \$64.00.

Chairman Lynch states that does not set an increase in taxes, just provides a leeway.

Councilman Stravato questions the Laird report as he does not think a straight tax increase is far.

Mr. Capuano states the Mayor has appointed a Committee to study the revaluation, the word is really equalization. The whole intent to real property is to get it equal. As to how bad it is, it is so comprehensive in scope, it is difficult to define specifically.

He speaks on about neighborhoods and changes that have taken place. He has to acquaint the current sales to the current assessments. A way of determining how unequal or equal neighborhoods are. Residential portion is only 60% of the total revenue produced. Real property is industrial or commercial. There are no measurements effective with that because they do not have a great deal of sales.

Mr. Capuano further states he can respond that the Laird Report was bad in that it did not deliver what it was supposed to, equity. As to how bad in each neighborhood, the Committee has to study this to come up with the weak areas.

Councilman Garan questions as to factors in other towns with the Laird Company.

Mr. Capuano states Laird Company is not considered the best. He speaks of other cities and towns and revaluations. The Community paid one half million for the report, it didn't get what it wanted, but it did get something. The company was paid off and the City accepted a report on May 11, 1974. They do not exist any more. They did the same thing in Plymouth, Mass., and they did the same thing as Providence, they walked out in the middle of it.

May 8, 1975

Councilman McKiernan speaks of the good job the firm did in Seattle.

Mr. Capuano is of the opinion a community pays a company to come in and learn how to do the work. The City Assessor winds up doing as much as the company and the company gets all the profit.

He states the City can carry on an ongoing revaluation. Make everything equal, don't patch up what is bad. Start with a revaluation program. Then develop administrative computer capacity to monitor every sale that goes on and assessments on a yearly basis and build it in as a matter of written and watch a neighborhood go either up or down and take action immediately.

Mr. Capuano further states that out of forty-five parcels in the City, Laird Company did not inspect fifteen thousand.

Discussion ensues on the re-assessment.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Bradshaw, it is voted to transmit the foregoing Ordinance to the City Council with recommendation; the same be adopted.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATION FOR REPRINTING OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

Chairman Lynch is of the opinion this is a very good idea.

Councilman Garan states he spoke to a representative of the Redevelopment Agency, there is no question it is out of date. They said there may be federal money they can use, it may not have to be appropriated by the City.

He informs the members he will look into the matter further.

On motion of Councilman Garan, seconded by Councilman McKiernan, it is voted to Continue the above Resolution in Committee.

Finance Director Izzo is excused at this time.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1974-21, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974, ESTABLISHING THE CLASSES OF POSITIONS, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN CLASSES IN THE CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE; RELATIVE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ASSESSOR.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1974-20 APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974, ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE; RELATIVE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ASSESSOR.

Chairman Lynch explains the above Ordinances to the Committee members. This will create an Administrative to the City Assessor and delete two jobs.

Councilman Bradshaw states there will be less money spent in the department with the deletion and addition of this job.

Mr. Capuano states it will amount to \$1900.00 less. They promoted one girl to a Clerk IV and the Assessment Aide position will be vacant tomorrow, as he is transferring to another department.

May 8, 1975

Councilman Stravato: What will the salary be?

Mr. Capuano: \$12,525.00. It is essentially the same think the City Assessor had under him, only an administrative job. (He explains the duties and speaks of Mr. Fenton's experience and capabilities.) In the absence of the City Assessor, you need someone in charge at all time that has the authority to handle all decisions.

The members of the Committee do not make a decision at this time on the foregoing Ordinances.

RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ASSESSOR TO STUDY, EVALUATE AND REVIEW ALL TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, R.I., AND REQUEST THAT HE REPORT HIS FINDINGS, RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR AND THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL.

Chairman Lynch requests Mr. Capuano give his opinion on the above Resolution.

Mr. Capuano: With a community as large and diverse and cultural and religious interests in Providence, this is a tremendous status and difficult to comprehend in the short time I have been here.

A study is in order and I recommend to encourage it, workload and staff permitting. Right now we are faced with setting the budget and to resolve the Laird report.

Mr. Capuano continues on relative to the Laird Report and informs the members he has a map drawn by the City Plan Commission in the early 1970's, which he will see if it can be duplicated for the Committee's study.

He states it could take two or three years to do this properly. He states the Interns in his department could make a study if he puts them to work in July and let them come back in September with their review.

RELATIVE TO THE FOLLOWING -

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Councilman Garan states a minimum form of training in either business administration or associates degree should be considered for the above.

Mr. Capuano states he has no objection, the job specifications were drawn from the Deputy Assessor's position that had been in his department. There are responsibilities that go along with this job.

Discussion ensues relative to job specifications for the above position.

May 8, 1975

On motion of Councilman Stravato, seconded by Councilman McKiernan, the foregoing Ordinances are Continued until the next meeting of the Board; Finance Director Izzo is to be given copies of same so that he may draw the Ordinances properly and City Assessor Capuano is to redraft the specifications for the position.

Messrs. Capuano and Fenton are excused at this time.

RELATIVE TO A RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ASSESSOR URGING THE CITY ASSESSOR TO STUDY, EVALUATE AND REVIEW ALL TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, R.I., AND REQUEST THAT HE REPORT HIS FINDINGS, RESULTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS, TO HIS HONOR THE MAYOR AND THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, the foregoing Resolution is Continued in Committee until its scheduled meeting in September, at which time Mr. Capuano will submit a report from the Interns in his department, relative to their findings.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE - WILLIAM S. MATHEWSON - PUBLIC PROPERTY - PARK DEPARTMENT.

The Clerk presents a request for a Leave of Absence for William S. Mathewson, employed in the Park Department as a Senior Mechanic, from May 12, 1975 through July 14, 1975; his reason being serious domestic problems at home.

A communication from Ralph J. Hartman, Superintendent of Parks, dated May 5, 1975, states Mr. Mathewson is a very competent and reliable worker and requests permission be granted.

On motion of Councilman Stravato, seconded by Councilman McKiernan, the request for Leave of Absence for William S. Mathewson, is Approved.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CITY TREASURER TO HIRE MONEY.

The Clerk presents the following Notes requiring approval of the Committee:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Bank</u>
\$150,000.00	Capital Purposes	3.90%	5/14/75	8/29/75	Industrial Nat'l. Bank
\$100,000.00	School Modernization & Const. Loan V	3.90%	5/14/75	8/29/75	R.I.Hosp.Tr. Nat'l. Bank

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, the foregoing notes are Approved.

ADJOURNMENT. On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, the Committee adjourns at 4:50 o'clock P.M.

*Rose M. Mendonca*  
Assistant Clerk