

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL  
APRIL 7, 1997

The Committee on Finance meets this day in Committee Room "A",  
Department of City Clerk at 5:00 o'clock p.m.

PRESENT: Chairwoman Nolan, Council President Fagnoli, Councilman  
Mancini-3.

ABSENT: Vice Chairman Rollins, Councilman Igliazzi-2.

Also present are John Palmieri, Director, Thomas Rossi, City Assessor,  
Planning & Development, Patricia McLaughlin, Assistant City Solicitor, Alex  
Prignano, Deputy Finance Director, Nancy L. Derrig, Superintendent of Parks,  
Kathleen Moretti, Director of Personnel, Michael R. Clement, City Clerk and  
Anna M. Stetson, Assistant Clerk.

**An Ordinance Establishing a Tax Stabilization Plan for Foundry  
Associates on Behalf of Inso Corporation.**

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: The first item on our agenda is an Ordinance  
establishing a Tax Stabilization Plan on behalf of Inso Corporation.

MR. PALMIERI: This is the first meeting following the hearing that was  
scheduled for last week. At that hearing representatives from Inso and the City  
made presentations regarding the impact of this relief request. As the Director of  
the Department of Planning & Development, this is exactly the kind of project that  
we want to encourage. This type of industry, this high-tech publishing, which is  
historically located in the city, but wishes to remain in the city, is what we should  
be trying to accomplish. The Foundry, can only present a competitive rate to Inso  
in the way of a long term lease if we can provide them with some tax relief. Inso  
has looked at a number of other communities and locations. They like the  
Foundry site, they will bring their 90 plus employees and expand by at least  
another 30 or so with maybe a doubling being possible in the next few years, if we  
can make the Foundry project happen. So what we are asking the council to do is  
to use the tax stabilization program approved by ordinance to permit the Foundry  
to apply through the ordinance for the plan that will allow them to provide the  
lease rate that will make their site competitive for Inso's expansion. We ask that  
this be given consideration.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: I don't have any documentation, but will you  
just go over the Fleet letter and the back taxes situation.

MR. ROSSI: What it is saying is that Mr. Guera is going to be escrowing  
ex-amount of dollars to ensure payment of any back taxes and to keep current with

April 7, 1997

-2-

the taxes that Inso will be paying on that particular parcel of land. Then there will be a lump sum payment and that is addressed in there. That payment will be made sometime in April or May.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: What is the amount of that?

MR. ROSSI: Currently they have \$434,000 in escrow and they are looking to get another \$86,000. So there will be about \$530,000.00 so they can catch up on the back payments. This is an opportunity for us to turn a property that has been delinquent in taxes, it's had difficulty getting off the ground. They have made many attempts, spent a lot of money in there. This is a good opportunity for the city to assist them in turning that property around and getting some tax dollars that not only have been ----, but to create new tax dollars. As the Assessor I am looking at value. Whenever you look at value, you look at the surrounding parcels and what this could have on the effect on the growth of the rest of the area. This is a positive thing for us. I think it will only help us. I feel this so go forward.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: My only question is according to the Charter, no exemptions granted shall be effective unless and until any and all taxes, together with interest and penalties remaining unpaid and due and owing to the city, assessed on such property have been paid in full to the city. Now if you had a letter from the Solicitor that we are not in violation of the Charter due to the owed back taxes, then I would be comfortable with this.

MR. ROSSI: In the past, such as whenever someone appeals, or the Board of Tax Assessment Review appeals, that as long as they have some kind of working agreement with the collector, as long as it is satisfactory to the Collector, then it is satisfactory. I believe that that type of application will probably take effect in a case similar to this.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I do think that if there is a payment plan. That language is pretty severe. You have the general Ordinance and you have the specific Ordinance for the tax stabilization. What you want to do is put language in this one that acknowledges the fact that there is back payment, but they are on a payment plan, and maybe put language in that off that payment plan. If they go off the payment plan, then the tax stabilization ends. What I am saying is that this is pretty clear, back taxes due and owing. If they feel in this situation they want to do a payment plan, I think you should at least acknowledge it in here.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: I would feel more comfortable with that.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I would just put in at the end of Section 2...."Foundry Associates and the City of Providence acknowledge back taxes are

April 7, 1997

-3-

owed on this property. Therefore, Foundry Associates shall enter into a tax payment plan for the entire facility, acceptable to the Tax Collector. Failure to remain current on said payment plan shall render this tax treaty null & void..."

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: Plus we have the Fleet letter to back this up.

On motion of Council President Fargnoli, seconded by Councilman Mancini, it is voted to amend the Ordinance with the new language.

Motion carries.

On motion of Councilman Mancini, seconded by Council President Fargnoli, it is voted to pass the Ordinance on behalf of Inso Corporation, as amended.

**REQUEST OF NANCY L. DERRIG, SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PARKS, FOR DISCUSSION MASTER LEASE.**

MS. DERRIG: I was under the impression that you had asked for some prices for some lesser expensive non-pickup truck vehicles. If it becomes a great difficulty, I would like to at least get one of these this year and then wait until next year to get another one, but the pick-up trucks really do not meet the needs that we have. I would like to also ask you to consider the fact that we are in need of a sky-walker. We have hired several new tree trimmers and in the past we were able to just keep one of these trucks busy all the time. We do now have enough people that we could keep two of them busy. I did put it into my budget for next year, but to wait until this time next year is probably not a good idea. I know it's late in the game, but I did want to bring that to your attention. Maybe if you take one of the Jimmy's and apply the savings toward a sky walker which would be approximately \$65,000, but we have a trade in for \$6,500.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: With the amount of tree work that you have, especially with this storm, I would almost think that is a must.

MS. DERRIG: They did a great job with this storm. They are making their way from end of the city to the other to pick up all the mess. They will go up and down every street. It's the best way to do it.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: What kind of prices did you get on the Jimmy's?

MS. DERRIG: I didn't get any prices on the Jimmy's, but they are cheaper than a Blazer.

MR. PRIGNANO: Why doesn't a pick-up truck serve your needs?

April 7, 1997

-4-

MS. DERRIG: Because I don't think that it does. We are not looking for pick-up trucks, we are looking for this for the two top supervisors. I am willing to get one, and put that savings to lesson the burden of the Finance Committee to the skywalker, if that is possible.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: How much does one cost?

MS. DERRIG: Probably \$22,000.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: How much does two pick-up trucks cost?

MS. DERRIG: The pick-up trucks range up to \$22,000.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: They go from \$23,000 to \$16,900. The Jimmy is a cheaper form of a Blazer.

MR. PRIGNANO: You will have to get the Parks Department logo on the side of the truck. The last three or four vehicles that we bought were not marked that they were city property.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: Communications is not marked.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: The should all be marked that they are city property. I was behind a state truck today and it said please report if this vehicle is not being used properly. We do want the City Seal on every vehicle that belongs to the city.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: Should we wait to pass this until you get the prices. Or we could keep it below \$22,685.00. In that range.

MS. DERRIG: We will do one and wait until next year for the other one.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: We already have one sky walker.

MS. DERRIG: This will be a second one. Then we can divide the crews into two separate crews. We would be able to get into two separate sections of the city.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: How many of these tree trimmers do you have?

MS. DERRIG: I think right now we have five. So we would be able to create two teams. I think that will help. I don't think we should wait until next year. We have the need now.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: I think this storm really pointed out how bad our trees are.

MS. DERRIG: It didn't bring down a lot of trees, it split a lot of trees. That's a lot of work when you have to cut part of the tree down and then you have to cut the rest of it down. I think they did a great job.

April 7, 1997

-5-

(Discussion ensues regarding how much they can go over in the Master Lease and what they can get)

MS. DERRIG: Let's just drop both of them. The trucks don't fit their needs and to get them something that doesn't fit what they need, I would rather have nothing.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: Would it be cost effective to let them use their own cars and give them mileage money?

MS. DERRIG: No, because they don't have four wheel drives. They have regular cars and you wouldn't go into a wet field with your personal vehicle.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: Then a pick up truck might do the trick. I wouldn't go in with a brand new car either.

MS. DERRIG: I will take the two trucks, forget about the Jimmy's, and get a skywalker.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: How much does that take us to.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: \$105,000.

MR. PRIGNANO: It probably gives us about \$13,000, not counting the trade in to put towards the piece of equipment, the skywalker.

MS. DERRIG: If we have this difference of opinion that we can't get over.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: The same thing happened when Communications came in and they wanted their two cars.

MS. DERRIG: Well I hope that they wouldn't be able to get them either.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: We have to be serious about these status cars are not the way to go. We need utility pick-up trucks.

MS. DERRIG: Well let's wait until next year when we may be able to resolve it, rather than have this issue go on. I would rather get the rest of the stuff in and get the skywalker, and we can try to resolve this and in the meantime Alex and I can.....

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: So what are you asking for?

MS. DERRIG: I am asking for everything except the Blazers/Jimmy's.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: Two pick-ups and a skywalker. Let's resolve on a citywide basis the use of the non trucks. Let's not just pick on the parks department.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: Unless you want to let them use their own cars and give them mileage.

MS. DERRIG: I don't think that will work. People don't want to use their own cars. They take too much of a beating.

April 7, 1997

-6-

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: That means we would have to say the same thing to Communications, Police, Public Works, all the departments.

COUNCILMAN MANCINI: I can't picture somebody from Communications. Why would he want a pick up truck. If you don't need it, why are you going to get it, because it's a couple of dollars cheaper?

MS. DERRIG: Isn't that the point Alex, because they are cheaper?

MR. PRIGNANO: I think the Parks Department and a pick-up truck has a lot more uses than Communications.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: The Department of Planning & Development, they have a Bronco or two. Public Works has two Blazers. So we are going to have to it citywide. That's the end of the Blazers and the Broncos.

MR. PRIGNANO: That's depending on the use.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: Not depending on their use. If the Parks Department has to have pick-ups, everybody has to have pick-ups.

MR. PRIGNANO: I am saying pick-ups may not be the appropriate vehicle for someone who is not going to be hauling things outside....

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: The supervisors in the Parks Department aren't hauling in....

MR. PRIGNANO: No, but they are in a department that doesn't have a lot of equipment and they are always in need of equipment. I'm saying instead of going for Blazers if someone needs an indoor cabin there's a station wagon. There are a lot of less expensive vehicles than Bronco's.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: I think the most expensive think is the two pick ups and the sky walker. The least expensive thing is a Jimmy this year and a skywalker.

MS. DERRIG: That would be satisfactory from my point of view if I could get the skywalker and one of these vehicles. A cheaper Jimmy type vehicle and wait until next year to get the other rather than get the two pick-ups.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: They need a vehicle.

(Discussion ensues regarding the type of vehicle to purchase)

MS. DERRIG: What about the compromise of one this year and one next year. That saves you money.

MR. PRIGNANO: It saves money this year. It's just my opinion that a pick up truck is more practical.

MS. DERRIG: I don't want to prolong this.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT FARGNOLI: He knows best what we can afford.

April 7, 1997

-7-

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: You are talking about \$23,000 for a Jimmy and one of your pick ups is.....my recommendation is we either go for the skywalker or we go for one smaller vehicle and a skywalker if it's going to be used by a supervisor.

MS. DERRIG: That's my preference.

On motion of Councilman Mancini, it is voted to amend the Master Lease for a smaller vehicle-4Wheel Drive, Jimmy Type and a Skywalker for the Parks Department.

Motion carries.

**Communication from Nancy L. Derrig, Superintendent of Parks, dated April 4, 1997 requesting approval of overtime for supervisory personnel for Parks Department management personnel for snowstorm of April 1, 1997.**

MS. DERRIG: This is the blizzard. The storm began on March 31, 1997 and ran right through April 1, 1997. Joe Salem and Robert Rastelli put in 24 1/4 hours over two days. It comes to \$868.67 for Joe Salem and \$847.72 for Robert Rastelli. They did an outstanding job. They were in charge of Kennedy Plaza, Roger Williams Park, lots of the surrounding streets. It was a very clear operation for the buses to come into. I have written them all a letter of commendation.

On motion of Council President Fagnoli, seconded by Councilman Mancini, it is voted to approve the overtime for the Department of Public Parks Supervisors for the Storm of April 1, 1997.

**Overtime Ordinance for Supervisory Personnel.**

MS. MORETTI: I have provided a memo that I have sent to the Department Directors and I attached the copy of the various departments when the departments pay overtime to the management people and how it is paid. The Law Department prepared the Ordinance. John D'Amico prepared it and I understand that Patricia McLaughlin is taking a look at it and I don't know if she has any comments.

CHAIRWOMAN NOLAN: Patricia may have something to say on this anyway, so we may have to have another meeting next week. We could continue it to next week.

On motion of Councilman Mancini, seconded by Council President Fagnoli, it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 o'clock p.m.