

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

May 22, 1989

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 4:30 o'clock P.M. EDT in Committee Room "A", City Clerk's Dept., City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairwoman Brassil and Councilmen Glavin, Farmer and Councilwoman Fagnoli.

Also present is Jerome Baron, Finance Director, Alex Prignano, Budget Officer, Joseph Chiodo of the Finance Department, Director of Administration Simmons, City Internal Auditor Woerner.

Director of Planning and Development Moses, Paul Harden, John Palmieri and Mark Merlino are present. (Rose M. Mendonca, Clerk)

Mr. Moses informs that his overall budget increase is about 2.3%, which includes the administration as well as the general fund community development. There is nothing new and exciting in the budget. It is similar to the Budget as proposed last year with some positions defunded due to retirements, and the positions have been defunded, there are no specific changes.

Mr. Moses discusses overtime and informs that essentially they have never funded overtime, but there was a union grievance filed by which they were required to settle as they had inspectors who were out after their regular schedule. Mr. Moses also informs of rental and travel expenses and the auto allowance, there being a major increase and explains to the members "the fact is that is a shifting onto the City's responsibility because of audit findings relative to the Community Development Block Grant. The City pays a flat rate whereas under the CD budget the federal government can only reimburse actual expenses, and that has caused substantial problems and what we were supposed to do was shift it over to the City. He further discusses the Federal Governments' position.

He further states that as far as the office, they will see an increase in there, and that's due to them moving, probably in a three or nine month period next year when the lease is up.

Discussion ensues and Chairwoman Brassil requests Mr. Moses to give a breakdown of what Miscellaneous Services of \$300,000.00 is for, and he states that most is for the promotion campaign for the City - \$250,000. is for the Advertising Campaign, and \$35,000. to the Historic District Commission and the balance of \$15,000. is essentially a contingency in the miscellaneous account.

Chairwoman Brassil informs that the budget is very straightforward and thanks Mr. Moses for attending.

At this time, Councilwoman Fagnoli and Councilman Glavin question Mr. Moses as to Neighborhood Funding for their areas, both having a serious problem and want to know if federal funds are available, particularly for Valley St., Academy, Atwells and Chalkstone Avenues, their being blight and some low income levels residing there.

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Mr. Moses and the members of his staff are excused at this time.

Nancy Derrig, Superintendent of Parks, is present this day for discussion.

Ms. Derrig gives a breakdown of where the Parks Department stands and states: "We have finished 11 neighborhood parks - this spring we have finished 6 ballfields and on June 10th, we are due to finish another 5 and then on June 24 another 5. There are more in the fall so the program, as far as bonding for ballfields and playgrounds, is going very well. The neighborhood input has been very successful, we do meet with the neighbors and the abutters, and the elected people which are very important and what we have come up with in most cases, I should say in all cases, is a design which really does fit the needs of the neighborhood. We are now attracting a lot more kids in Parks, they being well-maintained, attractive, etc., and are initiating a couple of programs this year to help keep everything in order.

She further informs of the temporary summer help they will be hiring after Memorial Day which is the peak season and states that they are starting a new program this year. They have a couple of senior citizens on a 10 hour basis who would do some light work and also report any damage that might have occurred overnight. They will work 2 hours a day 5 days a week. Among all the other programs, she thinks that they are going to be in very good shape this year and have also brought on a Head of Grounds Maintenance which they didn't have last year- "a man that ran a Lawn Care company who is very capable and knowledgeable and he has begun to give the day to day routine supervision that we need."

Ms. Derrig discusses the Zoo and informs that things are going very well, and they are opening another exhibit on June 7 and states that the Zoo Keepers, on their own time, have built this by hand, they have built artificial trees, bird work, etc.

She further informs of the new progress of the Park renovations, etc., and how everything is going extremely well.

Chairwoman Brassil questions a change - Parks Programming from 21 to 35, and Ms. Derrig states that is the Curatorial Services. Everything has to be taken from the Museum Basement to be cleaned, vacuumed and fumigated and there is a very big American Indian collection which includes leather works, etc. Those things are especially vulnerable to infestation and that is one of the bigger items. They were able to bring in 3 Curatorial Assistants and are paying them \$5.00 an hour, and these are dedicated people and to a researcher this is a real opportunity.

Discussion ensues relative to Matched Funding, and Chairwoman Brassil informs that the Council was very disappointed that they did not get what they thought they would be getting in Funding, and Ms. Derrig states that there was matching there, but there is

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always competition and with/^a12 million dollar bond issue and 39 cities and towns, Providence received 3 million, many of them received nothing.

Councilman Glavin states that things were portrayed in a clearer light than they actually were and informs that many Council people were upset.

Ms. Derrig further informs that she has personally bent over backwards to respond to every request and especially renovations and has really tried to meet the public's needs.

Councilman Glavin questions Environmental Services. There seems to be an increase of \$30,000.

Ms. Derrig states there was a grievance. Several people who felt they were entitled to a job. Joe Mercadante, due to this, received a substantial upgrade. He left Forestry and went to Environmental Services.

Councilman Glavin questions the increase in the Superintendent Account, there being a \$22,000. increase, and Ms. Derrig informs that this is a person who worked for Merrick Cooke and then she went to the Zoo to do some of their computer work.

Mr. McMahon, Deputy, informs that last year was a good year for Zoo receipts, taking in \$400,000. from admissions.

Ms. Derrig informs that the Management Contract has to cover the cost of collecting the monies last year about \$70,000 that paid for 3 baby elephants, it paid for engineering services, it paid for the Tropical America Building, so all of the things that really would not be able to fit into the Budget because of other priorities they are now able to pay for themselves. She further informs the monies coming in from the gate go directly into a segregated account which the Zoo Society has nothing to do with. It is only good for capital expenses in the Zoo to build new exhibits and buy new animals, etc. It also provides the ability of upgrading all the exhibits. It is not the City's to go into the General Fund.

Councilman Glavin states that he would like to see them distribute the monies and have a say in the expenditures of monies instead of the decision of Zoological Society and is aware that their interest is the Zoo at large.

Ms. Derrig informs that they do have an influence, and everything is under control, and the monies are monitored.

Ms. Derrig further informs that the control of the rest of the City Parks, etc., beside the Zoo itself is controlled by the City, the Zoological Society has a lease to run the concession within the Zoo, and the Parks Department has the right to run a concession outside the Zoo, this is a new separation from the Society.

Further discussion ensues as to the concessions in and out of the Zoo.

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Accordingly, following further discussion and various questions from the Committee Members, Ms. Derrig and Mr. McMahon are excused.

SECOND REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR OLYMPIA TUDINO EMPLOYED BY THE WATER SUPPLY BOARD FROM JUNE 1, 1989 TO JUNE 30, 1989.

Chairwoman Brassil reads the second/^{request}of Olympia Tudino, employed in the Water Supply Board, for a leave of absence from June 1 to June 30, 1989 as she needs more time for her maternity leave.

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli, the Leave of Absence is approved.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR DAVID MARTINI, EMPLOYED BY THE PARKS DEPARTMENT, FROM MAY 22, 1989 TO AUGUST 13, 1989 FOR ATTENDANCE OF A SEMINAR/WORKSHOP IN DENVER, COLORADO WHICH WILL EDUCATE HIM ON THE HANDLING OF ELEPHANTS TO HELP FOR THE ARRIVAL OF FUTURE ELEPHANTS.

Chairwoman Brassil reads the request of David Martini, employed in the Pars Department, for a leave of absence from May 22 to August 13, 1989 to attend a seminar/workshop in Denver, Colorado.

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilman Dillon, the Leave of Absence is approved.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY UNDER THE SWAP PROGRAM, LOCATED ALONG 206 WESLEYAN AVENUE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,219.81 AS REQUESTED BY JOHN BLAKESLEE.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 48-50 LENOX AVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF NINE HUNDRED ONE DOLLAR, THIRTEEN CENTS (\$901.13) TO BE GRANTED TO LAWRENCE L. JONES.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF INSPECTION AND STANDARDS TO WAIVE THE BOARD UP LIENS, PLUS THE INTEREST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$450.53 AS OF JANUARY 26, 1989 ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 25 MOUNT VERNON STREET, AS REQUESTED BY S.W.A.P.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY UNDER THE SWAP PROGRAM LOCATED ALONG 25 RUTLAND STREET, IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-FIVE CENTS. (\$2,153.85)

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolutions and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption, they are referring to SWAP properties with all papers in order.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 166 LORIMER AVENUE, THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-SIX CENTS (\$3,875.86),

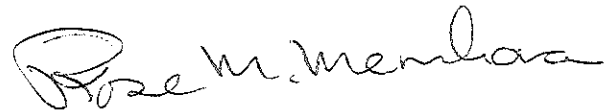
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PLUS INTEREST, AS REQUESTED BY MARY T. COPELAND.

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilman Lopes, it is voted to Continue the foregoing Resolution.

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilman Fagnoli, the Committee adjourns at 6:15 o'clock P.M., and Chairwoman Brassil informs the members a meeting will be scheduled for 6:00 o'clock P.M., Thursday, June 1, 1989 prior to the City Council meeting to review the Ordinance relating to Fairness in Purchasing.



CLERK

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