

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (EDT) in Committee Room "A", City Hall.

Present: Vice-Chairman Dillon, Councilman Glavin, Councilwoman Fagnoli and Councilman Rollins.

Also present are City Solicitor Clifton, Council President Easton and Tim Duffy of the Mayor's Office (Rose M. Mendonca, Clerk).

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON.

Vice-Chairman Dillon calls for nominations for Chairperson of the Committee on Finance.

Councilman Glavin nominates Councilman Dillon.

This nomination is seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli and Councilman Rollins.

Vice-Chairman Dillon calls for further nominations and there being none, on motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli, the Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Councilman Dillon as Chairman of the Committee on Finance.

CHAIRMAN DILLON IN THE CHAIR.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON.

Chairman Dillon calls for nominations for Vice-Chairperson of this Committee.

Councilman Glavin nominates Councilwoman Fagnoli as Vice-Chairperson.

This nomination is seconded by Councilman Rollins.

Chairman Dillon calls for further nominations and there being none, on motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilman Rollins, the Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Councilwoman Fagnoli as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Finance.

The Clerk casts one ballot as directed and Evelyn V. Fagnoli is thereupon elected Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Finance.

COMMUNICATION FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR DATED SEPTEMBER 1, 1989 INFORMING THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL THAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 (b) AND 1102 OF THE PROVIDENCE HOME RULE CHARTER OF 1980, HE IS THIS DAY APPOINTING TERESA ORABONA OF 138 SUTTON STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF LICENSES FOR A TERM EXPIRING IN JANUARY OF 1990, REPLACING DOROTHY STRAVATO WHO HAS RESIGNED, AND RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THE SAME FOR APPROVAL.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

Teresa Orabona is present by invitation relative to her Appointment.

Chairman Dillon states Mrs. Orabona has been known in the community for many years. She is unofficially the First Lady of Federal Hill.

Chairman Dillon informs Mrs. Orabona of the procedure of the City Council in that all appointees that are newly presented by the Mayor to the City Council are requested to appear before the Finance Committee so that the members of the Committee can speak to them and meet them.

He states when a license application is filed the first people that are called are the Council Members. The Council usually make a plea on behalf of their constituents to the Board of Licenses and other boards. The members of the City Council do hope that the Boards and Commissions listen to the Council, not because they are brighter or wiser, but because they are accountable to the people.

He further informs that she is appointed because of her long standing services and abilities to the City. He does hope that when members of the City Council go before the Board, they will be given a full and fair hearing.

Mrs. Orabona states she will do her best.

Councilman Glavin states the Board of Licenses and the Zoning Board of Review are very sensitive matters in the neighborhoods.

That is the reason her appointment is not displeasing to the Council, because of her long standing awareness to the Community.

Councilwoman Fagnoli states her sentiments are the same as expressed by the Chairman and Councilman Glavin. She is pleased that someone sensitive to the neighborhood concerns will be a part of the Board.

Councilman Rollins states he is pleased as he has known Teresa Orabona for several years.

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli and Councilman Rollins, it is voted to transmit the appointment to the City Council with recommendation of approval.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

RELATIVE TO AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 21 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ENTITLED: "REVENUE AND FINANCE".

Ann Sheridan, Assistant City Assessor is present relative to the above, by invitation.

Council President Easton states Councilwoman Young sponsored the Ordinance as she is the representative of the area.

Mrs. Sheridan states the Ordinance is subject to Rhode Island General Laws and a public hearing is required on it. She submits copies of General Law 44-3-9 relative to the subject matter.

This request is for an exemption for Jake Kaplan for his building at 206 Elmwood Avenue. It would grant him tax stabilization for a five year period.

She states Councilwoman Young has gone through the facility with Mr. Kaplan and is quite pleased. The first year of the stabilization would be subject to only 50% of the taxes. If the building were assessed at One Million Dollars, it would be one half for the first year and then it would be on a sliding schedule. The sixth year, they will pay the full bill.

Discussion ensues relative to the Ordinance being approved when it is for Jake Kaplan Ltd., only.

Council President Easton states this would be similar to the Biltmore Hotel situation. The policy has been so vast, it is better to take these up individually as opposed to the industrial tax.

Councilman Glavin is of the opinion that more businesses may want to take advantage of the industrial tax, he does not think this will be doing it the right way. He would be more comfortable in adopting something like the tax stabilization Ordinance.

Questioned as to his opinion, City Solicitor Clifton states Councilman Glavin's concerns could be addressed and this matter could be modified to accomplish his concerns. He is of the opinion it is a legitimate concern.

Councilman Glavin is of the opinion this matter should be referred to the Law Department, revised and re-worded to be a better application Citywide.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

Council President Easton states the biggest rush is there has been a lot of discussion on this so as not to lose an important fixture on Elmwood Avenue. The rush is he is going forward with the building.

Councilman Glavin states that with the efforts of the Solicitor's Office, this could be cleaned up and be put in the proper format. It is not that they do not think it is a good thing for the City of Providence.

Following considerable discussion, it is voted, on motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli, to refer the Ordinance to the City Solicitor so that it may be put in the proper form and Continue the Ordinance in Committee.

RELATIVE TO RESOLUTION EXEMPTING LINDA FOLOMENO AND MERCEDES TORRES FROM THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS.

Superintendent of School Almagno and Marcia Reback, President of the Teachers Union are present.

Chairman Dillon states the matter of the Residency requirement was debated by the Charter Commission, the City Council, the Mayor and the recent Commission that was formed. He does not think there is a great deal to be gained to debate on the matter of residency itself. It is the diligency of the search, that is the basis which was granted exemptions.

Mr. Duffy states the Mayor is requesting the exemptions based on Superintendent of Schools Almagno's recruitment of individuals willing to move into the City. These are special bilingual educators. After a diligent search in which we have submitted documentation to recruit teachers for those positions. He is of the opinion the School Department did an exhausted search in an attempt to fill the two positions. These are vital for the continued well being of students. These are programs that receive partial funding from the State of Rhode Island and are mandated by the State Department of Education. After having gone through that process, they are asking Committee to approve the exemptions.

Councilman Glavin states he would personally like to say that with the extent of the documentation and the length of efforts that Lynn Edwards has gone through to try to fill these positions, and others needed, certainly convinces him that after diligent search it is well within the Charters standards.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

Councilman Glavin moves that the exemption be granted, this motion is seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli and the Resolution is thereupon referred to the City Council with recommendation of adoption.

He states he received a letter, as he is sure all members of the City Council did from Mrs. Eilomeno stating her sincere desire to continue to teach in the Providence School System and her personal situation. He corresponded back with her and thanked her and her interest in the School System. She is, without a question, the kind of teacher that is needed in the Providence School System.

Councilman Rollins states that he believes that Lynn Edwards has done extensive work. Some responses have been by telephone instead of letters. He is of the opinion that there are people in Providence who would like to work here and teach, but because of the long term and short term substitute, they have to go out of town.

Councilman Rollins speaks at length relative to substitutes. He also speaks of the Residency Law and is of the opinion they should be granted an exemption for the school year.

Mr. Duffy states he understands the Residency requirement is an important concern for elected officials. They are in a position where the School Department and the School Board are charged with a mandate by State Law to give the best education they can and they have done an excellent job. State Law requires that the City provide education for bilingual students.

It is the Administration's opinion that in order to insure these people continue to work and have job security and will not leave for another job in another City, they are asking for the exemptions, not to the end of the year, but full exemptions for them.

Mr. Duffy states they already lost one teacher. Without an assurance of some kind of continuity, they will look elsewhere for employment and the children will suffer.

Previously they had a number of teachers that were not in compliance with the residency requirements and they extended them to the end of the school year. The Council and the Mayor charged

SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

Mr. Almagno to do an extensive search to find teachers and educators who live in the City of Providence.

These two positions are still not filled. In order to fulfill their mandate, the City of Providence has requested these two exemptions.

Councilman Rollins is of the opinion that people come here to make the money. The other communities have 48% minorities and these teachers come from that area and the City pays more money than other areas do. He believes the City should give people here a break.

Mr. Duffy is of the opinion that after what has been done at this point, they have to request the exemptions.

Councilman Glavin speaks at length and states that after looking over the documentation submitted, there has been a great search to find the qualified teachers to live in the City of Providence. This situation is different than the kindergarten teachers, these people they want to keep.

They are two people who are qualified to fit the bill for an important area in the School Department.

Council President Easton states he intends to support this, his only concern is that at this juncture the Superintendent of Schools is indicating this is not the end of the problem. He was expecting that today would be a full airing of that issue. He could do that by inviting or setting up an informal meeting with the City Council and the Superintendent of Schools Almagno and Mr. Edmonds.

Chairman Dillon takes a vote on the motion to approve and all are in favor.

RELATIVE TO RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF INSPECTION AND STANDARDS TO WAIVE THE BOARD-UP LIENS ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 6 PALM STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,080.00 AS REQUESTED BY THE PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY.

a. REPORT FROM MR. DECONTI.

Chairman Dillon reads a report from the Director of Inspection and Standards who states he is in favor of waiving the liens as the Providence Preservation Society took over the property.

On motion of Councilwoman Fagnoli, seconded by Councilman Rollins, it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolution and

SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.


RELATIVE TO RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO ABATE TAXES ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 166 LORIMER AVENUE, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FOUR CENTS (\$4,547.24) AS REQUESTED BY MARY COPELAND.

A report from City Collector Brassil recommends Ms. Copeland apply for the request with the City Assessor as an indigent.

Chairman Dillon informs the members that Councilman Lopes the sponsor, has Ms. Copeland set up as an indigent, but the taxes must be abated for the previous years, as she applied one year and was not aware she needed to re-apply each year.

On motion of Councilman Glavin, seconded by Councilman Rollins and Councilwoman Fargnoli, it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolution and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of adoption.

Adjournment. On motion of Councilwoman Fargnoli, seconded by Councilman Glavin, the Committee adjourns at 6:15 o'clock P.M.


CLERK

COPIED 

COMPARED 