

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

APRIL 12, 1988

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 4:00 o'clock P.M., in Committee Room "A", City Hall.

Present: Chairwoman Brassil, Councilmen Dillon, O'Connor and Farmer.

Also present are Finance Director Baron, Council President Easton, City Internal Auditor Woerner and representing Fleet National Bank are Frank Juchnik and Maureen Massiwer. (Rose M. Mendonca, Clerk, and Eleanor Hayes, Assistant Clerk)

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE \$15,000,000 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF NOT IN EXCESS OF \$15,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING AND PRESERVING OPEN SPACE AND ACQUIRING, PRESERVING, RESTORING OR IMPROVING RECREATIONAL AREAS.

Chairwoman Brassil states that the first order of business is to appropriate \$15,000,000 and to authorize the issuance of not to exceed \$15,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of acquiring and preserving open space and acquiring, preserving, restoring and improving recreational areas.

Councilman Dillon asks if they have a schedule for the spending of the money. Chairwoman Brassil states this is to pay the architects to get them going on the work.

Mr. Baron notes that this is the same \$15,000,000 that was authorized this past November but under the act you have to authorize the City to borrow the money.

Councilman Dillon questions whether they have a schedule similar to what was put out for the schools, that this is approximately what they are going to spend their money on and when they are going to spend it.

Chairwoman Brassil notes that this \$2 million is for initial seed money to get the architect and planning. After that they can come up with a schedule. This is to pay the architects for doing the work, to get them going on the architects.

Ms. Massiwer states that some of this money is for Roger Williams Park for design work.

Councilman O'Connor questions that approving this resolution,

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authorizing the issuance of up to \$15,000,000, what is going to be necessary beyond this? Let's say that they authorize this issuance right here. It says \$15,000,000. Now they are saying they are only going to take \$2 million. What's to stop them for going for more? Mr. Baron states they would have to come back for any money to be borrowed.

Brassil: They still have to come back for the \$2 million. This is enabling them to borrow \$15 million and questions can be asked when they come back to borrow the \$2 million; then the questions can be asked.

O'Connor: As long as it's cleared that what we're authorizing here is not the specific issuance of these bonds.

Brassil: It's enabling us to borrow up to \$15,000,000. It will come back to us at a later date - when will that date be for the \$2 million, for us to act on the \$2 million.

Mr. Baron: It could not be sold until after second passage.

Dillon: When they asked for money for the schools, the \$25 million, they sent out a schedule saying how much would be spent on each school, approximately when that would happen, and with the understanding that these are all estimates. He would like to see something like that. For this \$15 million plus the state money supposedly involved in this, he would just like to see what it will be spent on. What he would like to see is a list that says everything in detail, where the money is going to be spent. He does not think he is asking a lot.

Brassil: Requests Mr. Baron to call the Park Department or send a notice to the Park Department, telling them the Committee acted on the \$15 million of enabling legislation today. They intend to pass it at the next Council meeting, but if before the next meeting they do not have a list of all the parks, a breakdown of the monies and a breakdown of the state money, there will be no action on it.

Brassil: It has been passed once and referred to this committee at the last Council meeting. It only needs one more passage. If they do not have a list in their hands before the next Council meeting, they will not move on that.

On motion by Councilman Farmer, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, it is voted to approve passage of the foregoing Ordinance and

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and transmit it to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

Chairwoman Brassil requests Mr. Baron to contact Nancy Derrig or whoever the powers to be are , that we want a breakdown of the state money, the city money, here before next Council meeting or they will not act on this Ordinance on the floor.

Councilman Dillon requests it to be made clear that the time before the next Council meeting is not to be measured in minutes.

Councilwoman Brassil states they would like it here as soon as possible - by the beginning of next week - Monday of next week.

Ms. Massiwer believes it's Mr. Baron's intention to go with notes when he can.

Mr. Juchnick and Ms. Massiwer of Fleet are excused.

REQUEST OF CYNTHIA ABBATE, AN EMPLOYEE OF PROVIDENCE/CRANSTON JTPA REQUESTING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM APRIL 11, 1988 TO JUNE 26, 1988, FOR PERSONAL REASONS.

On a motion of Councilman Farmer, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it is voted to grant a leave of absence to Cynthia Abbate for personal reasons from April 11, 1988 to June 20, 1988.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1987-31, APPROVED OCTOBER 20, 1987, ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE AND REPEALING CHAPTER 1986-32, APPROVED JUNE 26, 1986, AS AMENDED."

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 35 OF CHAPTER 1987-30 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1987-19, APPROVED JUNE 25, 1987 ENTITLED" "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CLASSES OF POSITIONS, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN CLASSES IN THE CITY DEPARTMENTS AND REPEALING ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1986-31, APPROVED JUNE 26, 1986, AS AMENDED; RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Chairwoman Brassil states the Ordinances refer to adding a Supervisor in Environmental Enforcement (Grade 27). She notes that she was upset when she read in the newspaper that the senior citizens would have to carry out their garbage barrels. She would oppose it and fight it. The senior citizens could not do this. The pay for this job is \$24,861.85.

(?) They are adding litter cops. They will ride around and see whether anybody has left some litter or garbage bags have been ripped open by the rats and then they are going to fine them. They will be paid \$9.47 an hour. They are going after the people who are dumping in vacant lots.

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Chairwoman Brassil states that a representative of the Administration should be here to explain the Ordinances. More than one job is created; there are two Environmental Officers added also. She questions the funding of the jobs.

Through a telephone call from Robert Brooks, he requests the committee to delay action on the two Ordinances until a new schedule of fines for various violations clears the Ordinance Committee.

On a motion by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it was voted to continue the foregoing Ordinances.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE TAXES TO BE ABATED UNDER THE SWAP PROGRAM, LOCATED ALONG 195 HARRISON STREET, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,115.31, AS REQUESTED BY JOSEPH & GWENDOLYN WYNKOOP.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED UNDER THE SWAP PROGRAM, LOCATED ALONG 53 WESLEYAN AVENUE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,486.02, AS REQUESTED BY RICHARD COUNTS.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE TAXES TO BE ABATED UNDER THE SWAP PROGRAM, LOCATED ALONG 306-308 POTTERS AVENUE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,521.92, AS REQUESTED BY DIOGENES FILIPO.

It is noted that at a previous meeting relative to SWAP houses, that pictures of the house should be sent along with the applications.

Brassil: We had spoken about amending the SWAP Ordinances to have these people have these homes and abate their taxes and they would fix them up and living in them for five years before selling them and everyone said that was too long. She, personally, does not think so. She wants to be sure that the people cannot sell the houses a year after they get them back in shape.

President Easton: No, they can come in after the abatement as soon as they take possession. They have to get certification from Code Enforcement that they've corrected all the violations and building inspection in that everything's fixed up according to Code. Then they're eligible for it.

Brassil: All documentation must be received by the City Clerk within three years of date on initial application per abatement.

Dillon: They have three years to fix the house up, that's what it is.

Discussion ensues on the subject matter and Chairwoman Brassil reads the sworn affidavit of occupancy by owner attached to the Resolution for at least one year; Certification of

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Building Inspector that permits have been applied for and complied with and Certification of Division of Minimum Housing but there is nothing about their having to live there after they have the house.

On motion by Councilman Farmer, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolutions and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 55 HARRIET STREET, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,478.97 AS REQUESTED BY SWAP.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 432-434 PRAIRIE AVENUE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$833.82, AS REQUESTED BY SWAP.

In a communication from Mr. Tarro, he requests that the two properties listed in the Resolutions have their taxes abated (tax reverted property). Due to a commitment by SWAP to rehab these properties to go on the tax rolls, he firmly approves the abatements requested by this organization.

Chairwoman Brassil states SWAP is going to sell them. They rehab them and then put them on the market for sale.

Easton states what's happening is that all of these old SWAP types are being faded out because there are no longer any \$500 houses for them to purchase, so SWAP has changed its approach and is now buying the houses themselves, rehabbing them and selling them at no profit or little profit to low income home owners. This is another strategy which they have adopted.

Easton continues by stating the reason they need these now is they can't get financing to do the project unless they take these liens off.

Brassil: A communication from SWAP states each of these properties will be sold to the Good News Housing Corporation, a new, non-profit organization in South Providence which will establish both a limited and equity cooperative and a Land Trust. This model will ensure that families who otherwise would be unable to become home owners can do so and that properties remain in the hands of low and moderate income families in perpetuity.

As discussed earlier they would greatly appreciate the introduction of a Resolution to the City Council, waiving the boarding up liens and redeeming the property taxes to guarantee that they

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produce the best possible housing at the best possible price.

Easton: That Good news is the one that was written up in the paper. It's an excellent organization.

Brassil questions Councilman Farmer as to whether he would feel more comfortable if they had SWAP in.

Councilman Farmer states if they are going to be doing this all the time, he would. These can be acted on when another is presented. They can come in and state their program.

On a motion by Councilman Farmer, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, it was voted to approve the foregoing Resolutions and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON LOTS 708, 1087 AND 1088 ON PLAT 48 AND LOTS 57 AND 58 ON PLAT 53 IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$11,739.24 AS REQUESTED BY THE PEOPLES REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Chairwoman Brassil states following requests from PRC and a letter addressed to her on a commitment for funding from Rhode Island Mortgage Financing Corporation, the City of Providence for the construction of 15 units of affordable housing, she believes it's in the City's best interest to abate these taxes in the amount of \$11,739.24 which includes all lots requested by PRC.

Dillon: This is the Oxford Gardens.

Brassil presents a letter from Tillinghast Collins and Graham to Council President Easton and its request. She doesn't know where these properties are. They just have Plat and Lot.

Easton states they're all on Prairie Avenue and Oxford Street.

The letter dated April 5th is from Tarro, the date of the letter from Tillinghast is November 25, 1987.

On a motion by Councilman Dillon, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, it is voted to transmit the Resolutions to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CAUSE THE LIEN PLACED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 18 ZONE STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SIX DOLLARS AND NINETY THREE(\$1,206.93) CENTS OWNED BY BERNARDINO MANCINO TO CLEAN THE VACANT LOT, TO BE REMOVED.

Chairwoman Brassil states in a communication from Rocco DeLuca, former Director of Public Works, that subsequent to research of the department files, it is revealed that no payment has been made to the City of Providence relative to the subject Resolution. Therefore, it is his opinion that until such time as the department

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receives payment for services rendered, the lien should remain in effect and appropriate action be taken accordingly. The Resolution is asking that they remove the lien.

Farmer: In other words, there's probably a lot of trash on it. The neighbors complained. They asked him to clean it and he wouldn't do it. The City went in and cleaned it and placed a lien on it.

On a motion by Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Farmer, it was voted to postpone the Resolution indefinitely in Committee.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO REFUND TO WESLEY P. AND DORIS V. HOPE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,411.48 FOR THE YEARS 1976 THROUGH 1986 AS THE HOUSE LOCATED AT 77 BEACON STREET WAS RAZED IN 1974.

Chairwoman Brassil states a report from Mr. Tarro informs us he recommends approval of the amount of \$1,411.48 to be refunded to Wesley P. Hope and Doris V. Hope of Warwick Avenue, Warwick, due to a house being razed in 1974 and the owners were assessed for a two family dwelling.

Chairwoman Brassil states they were only taxed on a house of \$113 annual tax.

O'Connor: That's about right. In those days we were lower tax rate. The average tax now is about \$300 so to go back ten years, that's about right.

On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it is voted to transmit the Resolution to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 78 DABOLL STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,157.65 AS REQUESTED BY NEIL FREITUS.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG 82 DABOLL STREET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,322.72, AS REQUESTED BY NEIL FREITUS.

Chairwoman Brassil reads a report from City Collector Tarro which states both properties are requested by Neil Freitas for abatement of taxes on tax reverted property. It is his opinion that an abatement should not be granted as these properties were taken over by the City of Providence at tax sales for non-payment of taxes in the name of Neil Freitas.

President Easton states that this is requested by Elmwood Neighborhood Housing Services who are buying the houses.

Chairwoman Brassil states they should come in after it's done.

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President Easton states that for some reason they have been after him for months.

Chairwoman Brassil states they cannot give an abatement under Neil Freitas' name; he bought it at a tax sale and never paid anything.

Councilman Dillon states he didn't buy it, he lost it at a tax sale, now he wants to abate the taxes because he didn't pay. He questions what they are trying to do. Perhaps they cannot get a mortgage because of taxes owed.

On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, the Resolutions are Continued as requested by Council President Easton.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 66-69 COMSTOCK AVENUE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,260.02, AS REQUESTED BY SWAP.

On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it is voted to transmit the Resolution to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY COLLECTOR TO CAUSE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG HARRISON STREET, LOTS 272 and 273 ON CITY ASSESSOR'S PLAT 32, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,247.03, AS REQUESTED BY LORI SALK-CASSIN OF DESIGN ADVOCATES.

Chairwoman Brassil reads a report from City Collector Tarro which states in regard to the tax request abatement by Damien Cassin and Lori Cassin, he is not in favor of granting the abatement. This property was tax reverted and was redeemed by the petitioner and there is not just cause for granting the abatement.

On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it was voted to deny the abatement of taxes on that property located along Harrison Street, Lots 272 and 273 on City Assessor's Plat 32, in the amount of \$15,247.03 as requested by Damien and Lori Cassin.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 1987-92. (This Ordinance was referred jointly to the Committees on Finance and Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning and Postponed Indefinitely in that Committee.)

Councilman O'Connor states the Committee on Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning postponed the Ordinance indefinitely is because they had planning people in. Those plans overlap, they are already in effect. They are going to be presenting the latest plan in May so he recommends postponing the Ordinance indefinitely.



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On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it is voted to postpone indefinitely in Committee the Ordinance Adopting the Official Capital Improvement Program 1987-92.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JOSEPH PANNONE OF 86 LUCILLE STREET TO THE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSMENT REVIEW FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY OF 1991.

On motion of Councilman Dillon, seconded by Councilman O'Connor, it is voted to approve the Reappointment of Mr. Joseph Pannone of 86 Lucille Street to the Board of Tax Assessment Review expiring January of 1991 and transmit the recommendation to the City Council.

ADJOURN: On motion of Councilman O'Connor, seconded by Councilman Dillon, it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (EST).

*Rose M. Mendosa*  
Clerk

*Eleanor T. Hayes*  
Assistant Clerk

copied *EH*

Compared *J*