

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

NOVEMBER 12, 1982

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

Present: Chairwoman Brassil and Councilmen Dillon, Easton, Paolino, Flynn and Mansolillo.

Also present are City Treasurer Napolitano, City Controller Corrente, City Council Internal Auditor Woerner and William Collins of the Mayor's Office.

RELATIVE TO RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL
RELATIVE TO THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF THE "HERITAGE
FOUNDATION OF RHODE ISLAND."

Present are Antoinette Downing, the President of the Foundation and Mr. Bennett.

The President states it is a Charter Charitable Foundation preserving buildings of historical significance.

The owners of the Lippitt House, the property in question, approached a number of charities to try to find a home for it. The place is deteriorating. Brown University, School of Design and his organization were approached and in looking at the property, it was suggested a study be made to determine what is feasible.

There is no endowment to go with the property. 1.2 to 1.5 million dollars was needed two and one half years ago.

The study was returned to one of the suggestions was whoever accepted the property was to make the building self-supporting and income producing and the balance for the museum. Matched money was needed to renovate the building inside and out. Three apartments and a carriage house. \$200,000 has been contributed to date.

They have progressed to a point from last year at this time. They accepted the property from the owners and have gone through extensive architectural work.

When they heard of the development of the Resolution requesting the General Assembly review the taxing of the portion producing income, they saw a meager return on their investment.

The end result being to rethink the whole project with the possibility of not following through on the gift. If they back out, the property will be turned over to Brown University.

They are here to plead to see if there is some way to turn around what is happening. They can get more figures if necessary.

He is of the opinion if they are taxed on the income, the

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Board will elect to withdraw and the property will go to Brown University. They do not derive enough income. They have to continue to look for gifts on this property.

Mr. Bennet states the money derived from the property will be to maintain the building to improve the museum.

Councilman Mansolillo states he admires the work of the Heritage Foundation in preserving historic structures. He sees a policy question.

He believes the Resolution introduced was properly before the body and received favorable consideration from the City Council and Mayor's Office.

Residential property of any kind should be subject to residential property tax. It would be difficult to justify in his own mind that attractive residential property on the East Side can boast of a tax exemption. If a property is used for residential purposes it should be subject to tax.

Councilman Dillon agrees with Chairwoman Brassil in that all that are generating income should be paying their fair share.

Ensuing a considerable discussion, it is voted, on motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilmen Easton and Paolino, to introduce a Resolution to the City Council at its next meeting requesting the City Assessor survey tax exempt properties in the City of Providence to determine the residential use of said property and to report to the City Council, his findings.

Chairwoman Brassil requests the Clerk to transmit a copy of the Resolution, together with a communication to those she previously sent the Resolution to upon passage, and request it be referred to the Swearer Commission for study and review.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER, ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, TO BORROW FROM TIME TO TIME, IN SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE NECESSARY, NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$1,253,307.00) TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CARRYING OUT THE RENOVATIONS OF SCHOOL WINDOWS, ROOF REPAIRS AND OTHER RENOVATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVAL PLAN FOR USE OF BOND MONIES.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER, ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, TO BORROW FROM TIME TO TIME, IN SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE NECESSARY, NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CARRYING OUT THE OFFICIAL REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SMITH HILL RENEWAL PROJECT.

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER, ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, TO BORROW FROM TIME TO TIME, IN SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE NECESSARY, NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.) TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CARRYING OUT THE OFFICIAL REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE HARTFORD AVENUE RENEWAL PROJECT.

On motion of Councilman Easton, seconded by Councilmen Paolino and Flynn, the foregoing matters are Postponed Indefinitely in Committee.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY THREE DOLLARS (\$1,446,693.00) PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS FOR SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 90 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1974.

Dr. Ricci, Superintendent of Schools and Senator Orabona are present.

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilmen Paolino, Flynn and Dillon, the foregoing Ordinance is approved and transmitted to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

Dr. Ricci submits an outline to the members for expenditures.

Councilman Mansolillo explains in detail and states the Bond Counsel states the authority will expire in January of 1983, if not approved.

The Administration feels it can handle this additional debt if the City Council feels the money should be spent on improvements.

Finance Director Baron has assured the Administration this amount of money can be handled.

Dr. Ricci explains the phases of improvements to the schools as submitted.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE AND REPEALING CHAPTER 1982-43, APPROVED JULY 7, 1982, AS AMENDED.

The requests as submitted by the Board of Canvassers and Registration to change 2 Clerk IV titles, one to Chief Clerk and the second to Supervisor of Registration are approved, on motion of Councilman Dillon, seconded by Councilman Flynn.

The request from the Department of Planning and Urban Development to change Chief of Research from Grade 35 to \$27,918.48 per year is approved, on motion of Councilman Easton, seconded by Councilmen Dillon and Flynn.

The request from the Director of Public Buildings to change the hourly rate of John Sepe Maintenance Man III, Pools and Recreation Buildings, from \$9.11 per hour to \$10.35 per hour is approved, on motion of Councilman Easton, seconded by Councilmen Flynn and Paolino.

The changes or omissions requested by Superintendent of Parks Diamond are approved by Councilman Paolino, seconded by Councilman Easton, as follows:

Garden Center Manager (omitted) Grade 29;
Security Officer from \$6.43/hr. to \$6.9015/hr.;
Senior Security Officer \$6.50/hr. to \$6.9950/hr.;
and Supervisor, Division of Grounds Maintenance,
from \$8.00/hr to \$9.00/hr.

On motion of Councilman Flynn, seconded by Councilman Paolino, the foregoing Ordinance is transmitted to the City Council with recommendation of adoption, as amended.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION PLAN
FOR THE WATER SUPPLY BOARD, AS AMENDED.

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilman Flynn, it is voted to amend the Ordinance by changing Forester, Grade 16 to Forester Supervisor, Grade 22.

On motion of Councilman Flynn, seconded by Councilman Mansolillo, it is voted to approve the foregoing Ordinance and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption, as amended.

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF ONE
HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$160,000.)
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
TO THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 8 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1967 AND CHAPTER
181 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1981.

Councilman Dillon states he would like to see the plans for improvements by the Library.

Councilman Mansolillo explains and states the authorization is left over and the Administration it would be good to make the money available to them. They have done a fine job.

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilman Easton, it is voted to approve the Ordinance and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

Councilman Dillon desires to be recorded as "Not Voting".

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FIVE
HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$562,000.)
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS FOR OFF-STREET PARKING
FACILITIES PURPOSES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 121 OF
THE PUBLIC LAWS OF 1960.

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilman Flynn, it is voted to Postpone Indefinitely in Committee the foregoing Ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDEING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
CHAPTER 1982-42, APPROVED JULY 7, 1982, BY TRANS-
FERRING THE SUM OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000)
FROM APPROPRIATION RESERVE TO PROVIDENCE PUBLIC
LIBRARY.

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On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilman Easton, it is voted to approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Councilman Mansolillo explains the money will augment the current budget to accommodate the raises for employees. They had expected to keep raises at 5% but 6% was mandated. This is a portion of the cost to meet the 1%. It is a small amount considering the service is ongoing.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 49 OF CHAPTER 1982-44, 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", APPROVED JULY 7, 1982, RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RECORDER OF DEEDS.

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilman Flynn, it is voted to approve the foregoing Ordinance and trasmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

RESOLUITON REQUESTING THE TAXES TO BE ABATED ON LOT 482, PLAT 44, LOCATED ALONG 79 HANOVER STREET, IN THE TOTAL SUM OF TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND FIFTY-TWO CENTS (\$2,975.52).

On motion of Councilman Easton, seconded by Councilman Flynn, it is voted to amend the foregoing Resolution, by changing the address to 20 Bucklin Street and the lot to 597.

On further motion of Councilman Easton, seconded by Councilman Flynn, it is voted to trasmit the Resolution, as amended, to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF AND IN ADDITION TO CHAPTER 1977-23, APPROVED JUNE 8, 1977, ENTITLED: "AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE ENABLING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE TO INCREASE REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS TO ANY PERSON SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF 77H 6078, SUBSTITUTE A, PASSED AT THE JANUARY SESSION A.D. 1977 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY".

Councilman Easton states the Ordinance was presented in accordance with George Castro's bill, The law was extended to authorizing the City to extend the property tax exemption to cover excise tax.

Councilman Mansolillo informs he had a legitimate interest for the real property exemption, but is opposed to extending it to the excise tax.

He explains the exemption to the elderly for home owners and the problems that could arise in doing the same for the excise tax.

Councilman Mansolillo further states the Legislature has acted to provide free transportation to the residents of the senior citizens of Providence. This is not the time to extend tax exemptions. An adequate amount is being done for senior citizens by means of transportation in our City.

Councilman Easton states he realizes that when the City exempts

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taxes, they are shifted to someone else. People in the poor neighborhoods have a greater need for a car due to the unsafe streets and public transportation. He refers to the increased taxes on automobiles.

Councilman Dillon is of the opinion a fiscal note should be received on the matter, there could be a flagrant abuse.

On motion of Councilman Flynn, seconded by Councilman Paolino, it is voted to refer the Ordinance to the Finance Director requesting a fiscal note.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CHIEF OF THE PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A BICYCLE PATROL ALONG THE VARIOUS STREETS IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

On motion of Councilman Flynn, seconded by Councilmen Dillon and Paolino, it is voted to Postpone the Resolution Indefinitely in Committee.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND CHAPTER 489 OF THE PUBLIC LAWS OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, 1923, ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE".

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilmen Easton and Paolino, it is voted to refer the above Resolution to the Finance Director with the request he submit a fiscal note.

RELATIVE TO ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO POLICE RESERVE.

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilman Flynn, it is voted to postpone the matters Indefinitely in Committee.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, TO BORROW FROM TIME TO TIME, IN SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE NECESSARY, NOT EXCEEDING FOUR MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,374,000.00), TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES OF FINANCING THE OFFICIAL REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DOWNTOWN RENEWAL PROJECT.

Councilman Mansolillo reminds the Committee, they recently recommended the sum of \$250,000 to be spent for the Downtown Renewal Project, this is the balance remaining from the original request.

The Finance Director made it clear they will not be borrowing from this except as needed and the notes will be submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. This will illustrate to the Federal Government the money will be made available to the project. The Government can issue a letter

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of credit which is required by December 1st.

On motion of Councilman Easton, seconded by Councilman Mansolillo, it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolution and transmit same to the City Council with recommendation of Adoption.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TREASURER, ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, TO BORROW SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE NECESSARY, NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,700,000.00) FOR OFF-STREET PARKING FACILITIES IN PROVIDENCE AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 54, APPROVED FEBRUARY 5, 1960.

On motion of Councilman Mansolillo, seconded by Councilman Flynn, it is voted to Postpone the Resoltuion Indefinitely in Committee.

Adjournment: On motion of Councilman Easton, seconded by Councilman Paolino, the Committee adjourns at 5:50 o'clock P.M.

Rose M. Munkov
Clerk

Copied

Compared

J.M.A.
Jed