

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

APRIL 22, 1975

The Committee on Finance meets this day in the Conference Room, City Hall, at 3:00 o'clock P.M.

Present: Chairman Lynch and Councilmen McKiernan, Stravato, Garan and Bradshaw.

RELATIVE TO COMMUNICATION FROM STATE SENATOR JOSEPH J. CHAVES, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CORPORATIONS, SUBMITTING A COPY OF SENATE BILL 75-S 274 AUTHORIZING INCREASED TAX EXEMPT HOLDINGS BY THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND REQUESTING A STATEMENT ON THE CITY COUNCIL'S POSITION ON THE MEASURE.

Chairman Lynch states Mr. Albert T. Klyberg, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society has been invited to attend this meeting relative to the above and he is present at this time.

Chairman Lynch requests Mr. Klyberg explain his request.

MR. KLYBERG: The Historical Society has recently been given property and also an endowment of great value and therefore the request for additional tax exemption. We put in for \$10,000,000, which is a number we could live within. We actually need at least \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000, if \$10,000,000 is a problem, actually \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 could hold us. We were one half million, then in December it was raised to three million. We felt we had to get it amended.

Mr. Klyberg, at this point, reads a presentation for the members present, with explanation of the background of the Society, Holdings, Future Plans and Budget, which is on file in the Committee folder this date.

Following is the conclusion of the presentation:

"We deeply appreciate the value of these exemptions. Without them we could not exist. In turn we acknowledge our obligation to use them for the benefit of the public for which they were granted. We see us doing this in the following: by returning tax benefits in terms of new tourist dollars; by restoring ways and helping to make attractive the historic district within which we live; by serving as a public information center through our research library; and through a museum outreach and education program for the city and the state. Our record is one of a century and a half of service. All our proceedings and audits are public. We invite your inquiries, we invite your support, and we invite your participation in our effort to rescue our common past and our adventures in making it useful to ever new generations of Rhode Islanders.

At the present time our limitation on property and endowment as granted by the State is a million and a half. We now estimate our real estate alone is worth that amount. When the new endowment is added to our existing fund, probably the total amount will exceed three million dollars. We have asked the State to raise

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the limit to ten. The request was based on the notion that we didn't want to have to go back to them every year or so. However, if you would be more comfortable with a lesser amount, possibly five or six would do as well.

The total value of our collections is probably between ten and fifteen million but that, so far as I know, is not at issue."

Mr. Klyberg states they realize the tax exemption represents a tremendous privilege and they will do everything to meet the City's expectations.

Councilman Bradshaw is of the opinion this would be an incentive for other people to give gifts to the Society. Though he has talked at length not to remove from the tax roll, any property or to put back on the tax rolls taxable property, this case represents the historical heritage of the City and is in a different category. It is not a Veterans Post, Rectory or a School. He feels he can vote in favor of this with a clear conscience as the City has to keep its historical heritage.

Councilman McKiernan states Senator Chaves should be thanked for giving the Committee an opportunity to review this request.

Mr. Klyberg informs the members of what is happening in the area regarding tourists and is of the opinion it is a way of returning tax dollars in lieu of the exemption.

Mr. Klyberg is excused at this time.

RELATIVE TO AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1974-19, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974 BY TRANSFERRING THE SUM OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$400,000.00) DOLLARS IN RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM ITEM 5 (1-06-01-591) TO ITEM 7 (1--06-01-791).

Chairman Lynch states Representative Albert J. Lepore was invited to attend this meeting along with Mayor Cianci for their views on the above Ordinance. Neither are present; however Senator Rocco A. Quattrocchi and Senator Joseph R. DiStefano are.

Chairman Lynch requests they give their opinion to the members of the Committee.

SENATOR QUATTROCCHI: I would like to apologize for Representative Lepore not being present, but he is out of town. Way back in the January Session of 1973, Messrs. DiStefano and Lepore represented a bill conveying 4.9 acres from the State to the City for building a Recreation Center at Corliss Park. It took quite a while for conveyance, between Doorley allowing us to have federal revenue sharing money for park, ice skating rink and facilities; because it took so long for conveyance, we didn't have the public hearing until after the election which made the incumbent Mayor's commitment unattainable. There was a contract awarded to A. Veri & Associates by former Mayor Doorley to begin architectural designs, the original thought was \$550,000, having not more than \$400,000, this eliminated the prospects of a skating rink.

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We have a public hearing with over two hundred people present at which time there was discussion. Only three supported the skating rink. We continued to have our public hearings and thought Veri came down with a good design. It could be used by outsiders, it was not only for the area. We proposed an Advisory Committee which encompassed both Councilmen from the Ward, Representative Lepore, Senatore DiStefano and myself and eight members of the public. I was the Chairman. The final proposal was presented to the people a couple of weeks ago, Mayor Cianci was invited and he said he would commit the money that was committed previously by Mayor Doorley.

SENATOR DiSTEFANO: When we had the hearings, we took a survey in the neighborhood to see what the people wanted. The feeling was, something that could be used for everyone, all ages. This was what the people wanted in the Community.

The particular type park the architects came out with minimizes the vandalism which is an important thing today. This took into consideration why we didn't put any buildings on the property, only a very small building for electrical equipment for the lights for the complex. No other buildings. (He explains what will be at the area for the different ages.)

Messrs. Quattrocchi and DiStefano are excused at this time.

At this time Chairman Lynch reads a communication from Donald M. Capuano, City Assessor, dated April 21, 1975, who was invited to attend this meeting for various matters.

He states he is unable to attend this meeting as he has been enrolled for two years in different appraisals and assessing courses sponsored by the International Association of Assessing Officers for the purpose of becoming a Certified Assessment Evaluator and on this date he will be taking his final examination.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1974-21, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974, ESTABLISHING THE CLASSES OF POSITIONS, THE MAXIMUMNUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN CLASSES IN THE CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE; RELATIVE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ASSESSOR.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1974-20, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974, ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE; RELATIVE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY ASSESSOR.

Chairman Lynch reads the above Ordinances to the members present.

Councilman Stravato questions as whether or not this will put any employees out of jobs as they are deleting two positions.

Councilman Garan reads the job description.

Chairman Lynch is of the opinion the Ordinances should be Continued until the next meeting and the City Assessor and whoever he has in mind for the job be invited to attend same.

On motion of Councilman Garan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to Continue the above Ordinances in Committee.

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY SOLICITOR TO APPEAR BEFORE THE 1975 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND URGE PASSAGE OF "AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6.9 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ENTITLED 'APPOINTMENT, POWERS, DUTIES OF THE CITY ASSESSOR'."

Chairman Lynch explains the above Resolution would delete the words "subject to approval of the City Council" as just keep the appointment by the City Assessor.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to transmit the Resolution to the City Council with recommendation the same be Not Passed.

Councilman Bradshaw desires to be recorded as voting "No".

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY SOLICITOR TO APPEAR BEFORE THE 1975 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND URGE PASSAGE OF "AN ACT IN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6.3 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ENTITLED 'GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF FINANCE DIRECTOR'."

Chairman Lynch reads the Act to inform the members it gives all powers and duties that were vested in the Office of the City Treasurer and all powers and duties that may hereafter be vested in said office of the City Treasurer to the Finance Director.

Councilman McKiernan states if there are other sections that define the duties of the City Treasurer, he is not certain that he would not be in favor of this after a comprehensive review.

Councilman Bradshaw states that on at least two occasions Mr. Izzo has stated the job of City Treasurer can be eliminated, one job or the other, as he has been doing both.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to transmit the above Resolution to the City Council with the recommendation the same be Not Passed.

Councilman Bradshaw desires to be recorded as voting "No".

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY SOLICITOR TO APPEAR BEFORE THE 1975 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND URGE PASSAGE OF "AN ACT RESCINDING SECTION 4.8 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE," RELATIVE TO CITY TREASURER.

Chairman Lynch reviews the Act for the members and states this will rescind the office of City Treasurer in its entirety.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to transmit the foregoing Resolution to the City Council with the recommendation the same be Not Passed.

Councilman Bradshaw desires to be recorded as voting "No".

RELATIVE TO COMMUNICATION FROM SENATOR CHAVES PERTAINING TO THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The members review the discussion taken this day with Mr. Klyberg.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted to recommend to the City Council the request be approved in the amount of Five Million (\$5,000,000.00) Dollars and that the Chairman of the Committee draft a communication to be sent to Senator Chaves informing him of same and thanking him for giving the Committee an opportunity to relate their opinion on the matter.

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1974-19, APPROVED JUNE 19, 1974 by TRANSFERRING THE SUM OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$400,000.00) IN RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

The members of the Committee review the discussion which took place previously at this meeting.

On motion of Councilman Stravato, seconded by Councilman McKiernan, it is voted to transmit the above Ordinance to the City Council with recommendation the same be Adopted.

RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ASSESSOR TO STUDY, EVALUATE, AND REVIEW ALL TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, R.I. AND REQUEST THAT HE REPORT HIS FINDINGS, RESULTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THIS HONOR THE MAYOR AND THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL.

On motion of Councilman McKiernan, seconded by Councilman Stravato, it is voted the above matter be Continued in Committee until the City Assessor is present.

ADJOURNMENT. On motion of Councilman Stravato, seconded by Councilman Bradshaw, the Committee adjourns at 4:10 o'clock P.M.

Rose M. Mendonca
Assistant Clerk