

August 29, 1947.

City Hall,

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The Committee on Finance meets this day at 12:00 o'clock Noon. Present: Chairman Mariani and Messrs. Moakler, Laudati and Lord. Finance Director Reynolds, Acting Budget Director Moran, City Controller Keegan, City Treasurer Dunn and City Solicitor McCabe are also present by invitation. (James J. Kelly, Assistant Clerk).

The Clerk presents the following Agenda:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946, BY ADDING THE SUM OF THREE THOUSAND (\$3,000) DOLLARS TO DEXTER ASYLUM, ITEM 2. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, read and passed. Referred to Committee on Finance.)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946 BY ADDING THE SUM OF SIX THOUSAND (\$6,000) DOLLARS TO THE APPROPRIATION CONTAINED THEREIN FOR BUREAU OF POLICE AND FIRE, ITEM 1. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, read and passed. Referred to Committee on Finance)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946, BY ADDING THE SUM OF SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND (\$72,000.00) DOLLARS TO THE APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, UNALLOCATED, ITEMS 1, 2 AND 3. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, read and passed. Referred to Committee on Finance.)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946, BY ADDING THE SUM OF FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000) DOLLARS TO THE APPROPRIATION CONTAINED THEREIN FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, (INCINERATOR), ITEM 0. (In City Council, August 14, 1947. First reading, read and passed. Referred to Committee on Finance.)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946, BY ADDING THE SUM OF EIGHT THOUSAND (\$8,000) DOLLARS TO CITY SERGEANT, ITEM 1. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, read and passed. Referred to Committee on Finance.)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946, BY ADDING THE SUM OF THIRTY-FIVE HUNDRED (\$3,500) DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION - JUNIOR POLICE CAMP AT POINT JUDITH, RHODE ISLAND. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, read and passed. Referred to Committee on Finance.)

On motion of Mr. Moakler, seconded by Mr. Laudati, it is voted to return the six foregoing Ordinances to the City Council at its next meeting with recommendation of passage a second time.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A COMPENSATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE AND REPEALING CHAPTER 1510 APPROVED SEPTEMBER 6, 1946. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, referred to Committee on Finance.)

A protracted discussion ensues regarding the Compensation Plan and it is the opinion of the Committee that Alexander Addeo

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head of the Inspector of Buildings Department, presently receiving a salary of \$5,000.00, should be paid a salary of \$6,000.00, the same as the heads of other departments.

On motion of Mr. Laudati, seconded by Mr. Lord, it is voted that the salary of Building Inspector III be raised from \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 per year.

Finance Director Reynolds informs the Committee that they are adding a new classification to Chapin Hospital to be known as Nursing Instructor and recommends that the salary be \$2,400 a year with maintenance.

On motion of Mr. Moakler, seconded by Messrs. Laudati and Lord, it is voted to approve the Compensation Plan as amended and to recommend to the City Council for passage a first time.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE SEVERAL CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES HEREIN NAMED AND REPEALING CHAPTER 1398 APPROVED SEPTEMBER 21, 1945. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, referred to Committee on Finance.)

On motion of Mr. Moakler, seconded by Mr. Laudati, it is voted to return the above Ordinance to the City Council at its next meeting with recommendation of passage a first time.

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATION OF \$21,870,408.42 FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1948. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, referred to Committee on Finance.)

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 1509 APPROVED SEPTEMBER 6, 1946. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, referred to Committee on Finance.)

COMMUNICATION FROM PROVIDENCE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION. (In City Council August 14, 1947. Referred to Committee on Finance.)

August 11, 1947.

Hon. Henry J. McLaughlin, President of the City Council
and
Members of the City Council of Providence
City Hall, Providence, Rhode Island

Gentlemen:

The Single Salary Committee of the Providence Teachers Association respectfully requests that you, as duly elected representatives of the citizens of Providence, including the teachers, give consideration to the fact that the teachers of Providence have requested a Single Salary Schedule for all teachers of the city. At the request of the teachers, the Superintendent of Public Schools, following a conference with Mayor Roberts, at which members of the Single Salary Committee were present, incorporated in his budget a Single Salary Schedule. This, together with raises for other non-teaching employees and non-

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salary items, was presented to the School Committee and, later, to the city administration, as a deficit budget. Still later you gentlemen were petitioned, individually, by the teachers and by a Policy Committee which represented members of the Parent Teachers Association, members of the school personnel and other public-spirited citizens, that you recognize the importance of the problem and take some action on it.

Recently we have been told that only \$300,000 of the deficit will be available and we have been led to understand that none of this amount will be used to place in operation a Single Salary Schedule for Providence teachers, although salary increases will be given to the non-teaching personnel.

We have contacted other communities of the State and find several with salary schedules superior to that of Providence. In many places where a differentiated schedule is still in effect, no salary plateaus exist and teachers are able to reach the maximum salary in a much shorter time than is possible under the existing schedules in Providence.

Don't you believe that the teachers of Providence should be the best paid teachers in Rhode Island? Do you want to see Providence teachers drifting to positions in other cities and towns, attracted by better salaries and more consideration for their welfare? Do you want the schools of your city to be understaffed?

You will probably answer that you have no control over the expenditure of the funds allotted to the School Department. That may be true of the allotment under the "Strayer Plan", but is it also true of additional allotments? And, if you feel that you cannot dictate the spending of this amount, could you not instruct the Budget Director to arrange to find enough money to make the Single Salary Schedule possible?

We believe that all city employees are entitled to a raise when additional revenue is available; we all had to take a reduction in salary when the city revenues were cut, and the teachers took a larger reduction and were much longer awaiting the restoration of salary than were other city employees. During the last school year we watched as city after city and town after town in this State and throughout the United States granted salary increases to teachers, while we received help only from our State administration. The Rhode Island General Assembly recognized the problem and met it on the State basis. What are you going to do on the local basis?

We ask that this letter be presented to the City Council at the meeting of August 14, 1947, before any discussion on the City Budget for the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 1947.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Helen M. Cuffe, Sec.

Single Salary Committee,
Providence Teachers Association

The Clerk reads the following communication from Finance

Director Reynolds:

OFFICE OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR
Providence 3, Rhode Island
August 28, 1947.

City Council Committee on Finance
Providence, Rhode Island

Gentlemen:

On August 14 you referred to me for comment the attached letter from the single salary committee of the Providence Teachers!

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Association. The following is in reply to your request:

I would judge that the principal point raised in this letter is contained in the following excerpt: "Could you not instruct the Budget Director to arrange to find enough money to make the single salary schedule possible?" Although a specific amount of money is not mentioned in the letter the school committee has recommended a budget of \$6,500,000 which is \$500,000 in excess of school appropriations recommended in the proposed City budget for fiscal 1947-1948. I would therefore judge that one-half million dollars was the "enough money" referred to in the above quotation.

At the risk of being repetitive I would like to call your attention to the following facts:

Total revenues for 1947-1948, excluding water rents which must by law be used for purposes of the water department are estimated at \$19,996,618--an increase of \$2,500,000 over original budget estimates of current year revenues. Of this amount \$828,000 must be made available for school purposes and \$105,000 for Welfare purposes under the provisions of state law. This leaves \$1,500,000 available for such purposes as the City Council sees fit. The Mayor has recommended that \$300,000 of this amount be made available for schools in excess of all other funds required by the Strayer act or any other state law. The remaining \$1,200,000 has been used to increase the pay of City employees, to increase appropriations for Recreation, Welfare, Public Safety, Food and Medicine at the City institutions, and for equipment. All or any part of any further increase in school appropriations can only be "found" by eliminating a substantial portion of the above increases and thereby curtailing essential municipal services.

The Mayor's budget for 1947-48 which is now before you for your consideration provides \$6,000,000 for school operating costs next year, an increase of \$1,144,000 or 23.5% over amounts available this year. The appropriations for all other city purposes, excluding water is \$13,969,000 an increase of \$1,312,000 or 10.61% over the current year.

In addition to \$6,000,000 for school operating costs this budget also provides \$903,000 to pay principal and interest charges on school debt and approximately \$250,000 in pension fund contribution for the benefit of school department employees - a total of \$7,155,000. This total appropriation of \$7,155,000 for schools represents 35.8% of total revenues available for all Providence City Governmental purposes.

Although I am fully aware of the fact that the Strayer Act-Chapter 680 of P.L. 1925--bars me, the Mayor, even the City Council from dictating the manner which money appropriated for school purposes is to be spent; I would, inasmuch as you have asked me to comment on this letter, like to state that in my opinion failure to appropriate more than \$6,000,000 for purposes of the current operation of Providence School system will in no way prevent the school committee from providing an adequate pay schedule to Providence teacher.

School department reports show that of 22 cities east of the Mississippi and over 100,000 in population, Providence in 1943-1944 stood fifth highest with a per pupil operating cost of \$179. These are the latest comparative figures available, but it is known that recommended school appropriation for 1947-48 will provide a per pupil operating expenditure of approximately \$209.

The explanation for this relatively high cost would appear to be in the relatively low pupil-teacher ratio in Providence. Latest school department statistics show Providence with one teacher for each 21 pupils, to have the third lowest pupil-teacher ratio of 38 reporting cities with a population of 100,000 and over. If Providence had a pupil-teacher ratio of 25 (instead of 21) such as Boston has, total teacher salary costs would be \$490,000 less; \$490,000 that could be made available for increases in teachers' salaries without any increase in the appropriation.

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That, you will note, is the total of additional funds required to meet the required salary schedule in effect this coming year.

If Providence had the same pupil-teacher ratio as Philadelphia, 28.9%--\$868,000 could be made available for increases in teachers' salaries without any increase in the appropriation. This figure, I believe, approximates the estimated costs of the proposed single salary schedule in future years.

In view of the facts, I believe that a total appropriation of \$7,155,000 including \$6,000,000 for current operating expense is not only all the city can afford under present revenue and expenditure conditions, but it is sufficient to provide excellent schooling for our children and adequate pay for our teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Walter H. Reynolds,
Finance Director.

Finance Director Reynolds recommends the following changes in the Ordinance establishing the Classes of Positions, Maximum Number of Employees and the Number of Employees in certain classes in City Departments:

Municipal Garage Division - Add one Laborer II, making five in all and increase the number of employees in the Division from twenty-two to twenty-three.

Department of Public Works - Incinerator - Remove one Laborer I which will make a total of sixty-nine Laborer I and add one Automotive Mechanic I, making a total of three Automotive Mechanic I.

Charles V. Chapin Hospital - Change four Institution Nurse IV to read two Institution Nurse IV and add a new classification, two Nursing Instructor.

The Committee discusses the Appropriation Ordinance and the Classification Ordinance and on motion of Mr. Moakler, seconded by Mr. Laudati, it is voted to return the two foregoing Ordinances to the City Council at its next meeting with recommendation of passage a first time.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1509, SECTION 23 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE AS APPROVED SEPTEMBER 6, 1946. (In City Council August 14, 1947. First reading, read and passed. Referred to Committee on Finance.)

On motion of Mr. Moakler, seconded by Mr. Laudati, it is voted to return the foregoing Ordinance to the City Council at its next meeting with recommendation of passage a second time.

Finance Director Reynolds presents the following matters not on the Agenda:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1209 OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ESTABLISHING A CLASSIFICATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946, BY ADDING THE SUM OF ELEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE (\$1155) DOLLARS TO RECORDER OF DEEDS DEPARTMENT, ITEM O.

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$25,000) DOLLARS TO THE APPROPRIATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL ESTATES REVOLVING FUND.

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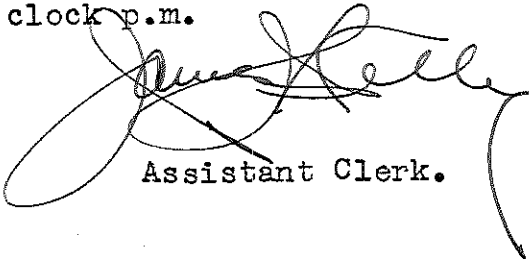
An ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1513 OF 1946, BY ADDING THE SUM OF THREE THOUSAND (\$3,000) DOLLARS TO THE APPROPRIATION CONTAINED THEREIN FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT - PARKING METER DIVISION, ITEM 5.

On motion of Mr. Moakler, seconded by Mr. Laudati, it is voted to return the four foregoing Ordinances to the City Council at its next meeting with recommendation of passage a first time.

On motion of Mr. Moakler, seconded by Mr. Laudati, the Committee adjourns at 1:15 o'clock p.m.

Copied S.K.M.

Compared A.F.H.



Assistant Clerk.