

September 12, 1941.

City Hall,

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The Committee on Finance meets this day at 2:00 o'clock P. M. Present: Chairman Presel and Messrs. Coppen, Munroe, and Testa. City Auditor Flynn is also present. (W. Earl Dodd, Clerk).

RE PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1942.

Chairman Presel explains that the purpose of the public hearing is to enable the members of the Finance Committee to listen to suggestions by the public in attendance which would be valuable to the Committee during its consideration of the Budget Ordinance.

Messrs. Robert M. Goodrich, representing the Providence Governmental Research Bureau, and Attorney Philip V. Marcus, express the opinion that the three days' notice of the hearing was not sufficient, and in addition the public is without definite information, either through the press or by distribution of copies of the proposed budget ordinance, to make intelligent suggestions to the Committee. They recommend that a second hearing be held pending which as much information as possible relative to the present financial condition of the City and pertinent features of the budget should be made known.

Chairman Presel expresses his personal conviction that another public hearing should be held in view of the nature of the document and the time involved.

RE SALARIES IN THE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS DEPARTMENT.

Arthur W. Drew of the Board of Tax Assessors appears before the Committee and explains that the Board of Tax Assessors has made certain recommendations for salary increases in their Department. Mr. Drew explains to the Committee that Howard Milliken was appointed Chief Clerk in 1938, after serving as a Counter Clerk in the Tax Department, and that at the present time he is receiving a D rating which pays \$39.75. This salary being paid to Mr. Milliken is the same as he received while serving on the counter, and during the past two years and nine months he has been promised an increase in his salary.

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Mr. Drew makes the following recommendations for a new salary schedule in the Board of Tax Assessors, namely, to change the salary of Howard Milliken from a D rating to an A rating; Anthony Petronella, from a C rating to a B rating; Gustaf A. Nelson, from a D rating to a B rating; Henry Zambarano, from an E rating to a C rating; and Bertha Meade, from an H rating to an E rating. Mr. Drew further explains that to put all of these recommendations into effect it would cost \$40.00 per week extra in total, if they were all granted as requested.

A discussion ensues, and on motion of Mr. Munroe, seconded by Mr. Coppen, it is voted to change a D rating to a B rating, in order that an increase in salary be given to Howard Milliken who is serving as Chief Clerk. The Committee suggests that no addition be made to the appropriation of the next fiscal year to take care of this increase, that the matter should be taken care of in the Board of Tax Assessors Department.

RE INCREASE IN SALARY OF INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS. Mr. Coppen states that he believes that the Inspector of Buildings rates an increase in salary in the amount of \$500.00.

A discussion ensues, and on motion of Mr. Coppen, seconded by Mr. Testa, it is voted to increase the salary of the Inspector of Buildings in the Budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942 in the amount of \$500.00, and that an amendment be made to the Salary Ordinance increasing the salary of the Inspector of Buildings to \$5,000.00 per annum.

RE SALARY OF DEPUTY RECORDER OF DEEDS. Consideration is given to the salary of the Deputy Recorder of Deeds, and it is the consensus of the Committee that an increase be made by adding the sum of \$10.00 per week to the salary of the Deputy Recorder of Deeds.

A discussion ensues, and on motion of Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Coppen, it is voted to recommend an increase in the salary of the Deputy Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$10.00, and to return with recommendation of passage for the second time an Ordinance referred back to the Finance Committee, which was previously considered by the City Council and passed upon a

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first time.

RE PUBLIC CELEBRATION APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1942. A discussion ensues, and, upon the suggestion of Mayor Roberts, it is the consensus of the Committee that an appropriation be made to help defray some of the expenses of the Mayor's Defense and Recreation Committee. On motion of Mr. Munroe, seconded by Mr. Testa, it is voted to appropriate and add to the Budget of the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942 the amount of \$1,000.00 to be added to the Public Celebration Appropriation for the Mayor's Defense and Recreation Committee.

RE ADDITION TO CITY COUNCIL APPROPRIATION. A discussion ensues, it being pointed out that there is no sum recommended in the Mayor's Budget for advertising in the Appropriation of the City Council. In view of the fact that the actual expenditures in 1938-1939 amounted to \$792.36 and in 1939-1940 actual advertising expenses amounted to \$1,922.89, it is the consensus of the Committee that some appropriation be made for advertising.

On motion of Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Munroe, it is voted to add the sum of \$500.00 for advertising in the City Council Appropriation, which would then make a total of \$23,000.00 as shown in the Budget of the City of Providence for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942.

RE FISCAL AGENT'S FEE. The Committee considers a Report previously rendered to the Committee on Finance by City Treasurer Fitzpatrick, relative to charges that will be made by the Fiscal Agents of the City in New York City for taking care of collections relative to the City's Funded Debt.

On motion of Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Munroe, it is voted to add the sum of \$4,000.00 to Item No. 2 under the subheading of Fiscal Agent's Fee. This will increase the Item 2 expenses for the Treasury Department from \$22,395.00 to \$26,395.00 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942.

Mayor Roberts is invited and appears before the Committee, and discusses the various phases of the Budget for the City of Providence for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942.

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Mayor Roberts explains that, in preparing the Budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942, the City is facing the fact that provision must be made for Unemployment Relief Expenditures, and that the amount of \$1,000,000.00 has been provided for in this Budget, and that as it is set up, after providing for borrowed funds for Unemployment Relief in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, the net surplus, \$9,943,83 appears in the Budget as submitted by him. Any other changes that the Committee on Finance would make, effect this net spending surplus.

Mr. Coppen states that he believes it is one of the finest Budgets that he has seen since he has been in the City Government, and he congratulates the Mayor on the splendid job that was done in bringing it about. He further explains that he was delighted to find the salary of the City Treasurer increased in the Budget as presented by the Mayor, and that he personally feels that an addition should be made to the salary of the Inspector of Buildings, as previously passed upon at this meeting by the Finance Committee.

RELATIVE TO ANOTHER PUBLIC HEARING. It is the consensus of the Committee that no further Public Hearing be held upon the Budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1942.

AN ORDINANCE RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF BUDGET AS SUBMITTED BY MAYOR FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1942. On motion of Mr. Coppen, seconded by Mr. Munroe, it is voted to present an Ordinance to the City Council at its meeting to be held Thursday, September 18, 1941, as recommended by the Mayor's Budget, plus the following increases:

Inspector of Buildings....	\$500.00	per annum increase in salary
Deputy Recorder of Deeds..	\$520.00	" " " " "
Increase in City Council Appropriation, Item 2, for advertising.....	\$500.00	
Increase in Public Celebration Appropriation for Mayor's Defense and Recreation Committee....	\$1,000.00	
Increase in Treasury Department Appropriation, Item 2, for Fiscal Agent Fee.....	\$4,000.00	

On motion of Mr. Munroe, seconded by Mr. Testa, the Committee adjourns to meet on Thursday, September 18, 1941, at 7:30 o'clock P. M.

W. Earl Dodd
Clerk.

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Chairman.