

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, July 17, 2008 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by the Vice-Chair.

Present: Councilman Terence Livingston, Chair  
Council Vice-President Paula McFarland, Vice-Chair  
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino  
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone  
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Absent: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.  
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.  
Vito Sciolto, City Solicitor  
Charles Garganese, Jr., Assistant City Solicitor  
Corsino Delgado, Director of Finance  
Donald Gray, City Treasurer  
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Update regarding Caruolo Action (Cont. from 5/12/2008)**

**Chair** stated that the City is in suit at this time and there is no discussion needed at this time regarding this item.

## **Tax Interest Waiver Denial of Gail Sears DeFelice (Cont. 6/12/2008)**

**Gail Sears DeFelice** appeared to speak.

**Chair** indicated that Mr. Woerner was asked at the last meeting, to check into this issue. He asked that Mr. Woerner report his findings.

**Mr. Woerner** stated that he met with the Assessor and based on the other multi-units in the City, Ms. DeFelice was about the middle of the range, totally normally, compared to everyone else. She appealed to the Board of Review and was denied.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to approve the denial, as recommended by the City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:**

**Advice and Consent** of Mayor's appointment of Kyle L. Bridgefarmer as Building Official.

**Mr. Bridgefarmer** appeared to speak. Council Vice-President McFarland asked Mr. Bridgefarmer if he is State Certified. Mr. Bridgefarmer stated, not yet. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that State Statute states that you have to be in the building industry for ten years before you can become State Certified. Since Mr. Bridgefarmer is not, he will not be able to get State Certified.

**Chair** asked for Solicitor's opinion regarding this. Solicitor Garganese stated that he will have to check into this.

**Councilman Navarro** asked Mr. Bridgefarmer if salary has been discussed with the Mayor. Mr. Bridgefarmer stated that the Mayor indicated that the salary would be \$50,000.

**Council Vice-President McFarland** asked Mr. Bridgefarmer if he is State Architect Certified. Mr. Bridgefarmer stated, no. Council Vice-President McFarland stated to Mr. Bridgefarmer that if he was, he would automatically be State Certified.

**Chair** stated that his recommendation is the Committee send this to the full Council without a recommendation so we can get all the answers from the Solicitor.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to refer this item to the full Council without a recommendation. Motion passed on a vote of 3-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Livingston, Lupino and Barone -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Council Vice-President McFarland -1.

### **Harbor Master Report on Salary Discrepancy for 2007**

**Chair** stated that this has been taken care of. His understanding is the Harbor Master has received his pay.

**\*Hiring of Experts** to conduct a Program Audit of the School Department.

**Council Vice-President McFarland** stated that there needs to be a comprehensive outline indicating who is paying for what and all the steps and who all the consultants are and who will be paying for the costs and how much and the scope of work to be done.

**Chair** asked Solicitor to get something together to get this process moving for the Council meeting and discuss this with Mr. Woerner.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to send to the full Council a proposal from the Solicitor and Administration as to the consultants to be hired, cost and scope of audit. Motion passed unanimously.

**6-08-1** Ordinance transferring appropriations and amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Transfers).

**Council Vice-President McFarland** stated that she had requested a number of questions from the Administration regarding this Ordinance prior to this meeting and she has not received any information from the Administration at all. Mr. Woerner indicated to her that this transfer has already occurred. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that she is very upset that she was provided with this packet this evening as we are taking up the subject.

**Mr. Delgado** stated that with respect to the packet Council Vice-President McFarland was provided with, his understanding is that this information had previously been shared with the Council.

**Council Vice-President McFarland** stated that she does not recall during the past year, during any meetings, any mention that overtime was going to be over for any particular line item. This seems to her that this is the highest overtime ever in the history of the City. She asked for an explanation. **Commander Lynch** stated that he has submitted to the Council acting out of rank forms, overtime forms, compensatory forms and overtime policy forms. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that something needs to be done about the overtime. She asked for an explanation of acting out of rank.

**Colonel McGrath** appeared to speak and stated that acting out of rank positions are only effective of positions that are full-time.

**Councilman Navarro** asked if amount of overtime hours have gone up significantly over the past few years. Commander Lynch stated that predominantly, they have stayed the same, they may have gone up.

**Chair** stated that Mr. Woerner has indicated that the funds should come from the City Council Contingency Account instead of the RI Real Estate Tax.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council Vice-President McFarland, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: page 1, delete "City Clerk, RI Real Estate Tax" and add "City Council, Contingency Account", page 2, delete "City Clerk, RI Real Estate Tax" and add "City Council, Contingency Account" and delete "\$620,000 and add \$74,079.

Under Discussion:

**Mark Petrella**, 152 Robson St., Vice-President of IBPO, appeared to speak regarding the overtime compensatory time. He also addressed the acting out of rank policy.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend above Ordinance and motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Ordinance as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

**\*6-08-2** Ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 (Supplemental Appropriation).

**Mr. Delgado** appeared to explain this Ordinance. No one appeared to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

**Real Estate/Tangible Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

**Tax Incentive Application** for Pumpkin Patch Realty LP, 1150 New London Ave., for property located at 210 Comstock Parkway.

**Paula Watt**, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that the impact of this Tax Incentive would be \$58,000 over five years.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Incentive Application. Motion passed unanimously.

**Notification pursuant to Ordinance 3.12.080 from City Treasurer of Waiver of Interest (For Information Only)**

**Tax Interest Waiver Approvals** – as recommended by City Treasurer

**Mr. Gray** appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

**Tax Interest Waiver Denials** – as recommended by City Treasurer

**Mr. Gray** appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver denials as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee