

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 4, 1996

Upon Recess of BMA

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were twelve Aldermen present.

**Present:** Ald. Wihby, Elise, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin, Robert, Hirschmann

**Messrs.:** Assistant Solicitor Arnold, K. Clougherty, H. Moran, Chief Kane

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Requests for Budget Adjustments:

City Clerk	\$1,013.48
Mayor's Office	\$1,160.00
Personnel	\$1,200.00
Police	\$5,161.00
Welfare	\$3,000.00

Mayor Wieczorek stated there was an additional request from the Mayor's Office for a budget adjustment totalling \$1,160.00 as well as a request for budget adjustment from the Library was presented noting it was going from regular salary to books noting that those types of transfers usually did not occur.

Ald. Cashin stated it was in their salary account which was part of their budget and thought they ought to be allowed such a transfer.

Mayor Wieczorek thought there was either a policy or an unofficial policy where they had not permitted transfers from salary accounts to other items.

Ald. Cashin stated it was unique in that their book allotment had been cut noting if they had an opportunity to somehow help that situation thought they ought to be encouraged to do so.

Ald. Soucy stated if they didn't use money from salaries and if they did have a surplus asked wouldn't that money then just lapse and be part of the general fund balance and the Library would then lose the \$16,000.

Mayor Wieczorek stated like every department that had money left in it did not think the idea was to spend every last penny there was left in the budget.

Ald. Soucy stated knowing that next year's budget was very lean and the Board had made significant cuts in the departments felt they should take that into consideration.

Ald. Shea stated he was a strong advocate of the Library and believed they should be granted their request.

Ald. Domainque stated she agreed with Ald. Shea wanting to know from the City Solicitor's Office if for any reason that would be contrary to their operating procedure.

Assistant Solicitor Arnold believed that would be a more appropriate question for the Finance Department.

Mr. Clougherty stated the policy was as the Mayor had stated was that they tried to discourage moving money from salaries to the other line items noting that was the general policy, however, the Board had, in the past, allowed the Library to move money from salaries to books for that purpose and it was a call of the Board and had been done, not frequently but had been done in the past for the Library given their status.

Ald. Domainque stated she would fully support the Library to allow purchasing those books.

Ald. Robert asked what caused extra money in the salary account.

Mayor Wieczorek replied he would have to assume that they did not have all of their positions filled or there were vacancies at some point during the course of the year.

Ald. Robert stated he did not have a problem with what they were asking, but wondered why the money was left over.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he believed they were without somebody for a period of time, but did not know who.

Ald. Cashin stated he believed that some people had retired and had been replaced by people at lower rates and thought that there were also vacant positions which were not filled.

Mr. Moran replied that was correct; that the Library usually had a number of vacancies which were not filled.

Ald. Pariseau thought the Library had been present about three meetings ago requesting to transfer money out of an account into salaries.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he could not recall.

Ald. Soucy stated the Library salary budget as of July 1, 1996 in the black book was close to \$1 million noting that having \$16,000 over out of a \$1 million budget with 37 employees did not think

was an outrageous thing when considering retirements and hiring people in at a lower level than the person who occupied the position previously noting there was bound to be left over money.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he did not think that was the point but rather would the Board be permitting people to move money from the salary account to other accounts which were out of the salary items.

Ald. Pariseau stated his concern was that they would have all of the other departments coming in for that transfer and with an increase in the tax rate he would not want to start that precedent.

Ald. Wihby stated that money was part of the fund balance which had been anticipated would be carried over for next year, so they could take it out of this year and assume they would get the \$16,000 which wasn't a lot of money when they were considering a hundred and something million dollar budget, but they had counted on that money in the budget already, so it wasn't an extra windfall and it would affect something noting it was small enough and it probably wouldn't, but would just be paying for it next year because the fund balance would be smaller.

Mayor Wieczorek agreed there would be an impact.

Request for Budget Adjustment:  
Library                      \$16,000.00

Ald. Clancy moved to approve the Library budget adjustment request. Ald. Elise duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested by Ald. Pariseau. Ald. Pariseau, Hirschmann and Wihby voted nay. Ald. Cashin, Robert, Elise, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy, Shea and Domainque voted yea. The motion carried.

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted to approve the remaining requests for budget adjustments.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed items 4 & 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Chief Kane requesting a transfer of \$189,000 be made to the Fire Department budget from the Salary Adjustment account to cover the cost of the settlement of the collective bargaining agreement with Local #856, International Association of Firefighters.

Communication from Building Commissioner requesting a transfer of \$14,000 be made to the Building Department Salary Account from the Salary Adjustment Account in order to satisfy their obligations through the end of fiscal year 1996.

Mayor Wieczorek suggested items 4 and 7 be received and filed.

Ald. Pariseau asked how these items would be taken care of if they were received and filed.

Mayor Wieczorek replied item 8 was the resolution allowing the Finance Officer to make the adjustments.

Ald. Wihby moved to receive and file items 4 and 7. Ald. Domaingue duly seconded the motion.

Ald. pariseau stated he did not think the Board was being fair to the Fire Department nor the Building Commissioner.

Mayor Wieczorek stated they were being fair to both.

Ald. Pariseau stated they had allowed the pay raises for both departments (Fire and Building) and said if monies were left over in the Fire Department's budget they could take it from FY96 and use it for 97; that in doing it this way, they were not allowing them that.

Mayor Wieczorek stated they did not have enough.

Ald. Pariseau stated they ought to be given the \$189,000.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he believed they would get whatever it was they would need, if they needed \$189,000 they'd get \$189,000 and if they needed say \$180,000 they'd get the \$180,000, etc.

Ald. Wihby stated it was not their money; that it was in the Salary Adjustment Account noting they would be given whatever amount was needed.

Ald. Cashin stated as Chief Kane was presentt why didn't the Board ask him if he had any probelms with teh way in which they were addressing the matter.

Chief Kane stated as he understood the end of the year closing, he believed this would be the proper way to address the matter.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to receive and file. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 5 of the agenda:

Report of the Committee on Traffic advising that it has reviewed the enclosed communication from Finard & Company requesting payment of \$94,598.28 and find that the City is liable for payment of same. The Committee voted to refer the communicaiotn to the Committee on Finance for funding determination.

Ald. Sysyn moved to direct the Finance Director to locate funding and pay. Ald. Wihby duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Clougherty stated a discussion was held last evening at the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety meeting where they talked about restructuring with fees and thought there was opportunity there and would be refining it with the Intown Manager and thought that was their best opportunity to find those dollars noting the Board would be seeing it come back before them in the form of a bigger proposal.

Ald. Hirschmann asked if they would want to pay half in this fiscal year with the remainder in FY97.

Mr. Clougherty replied they would probably first want to determine the options they were looking at with the different funding sources as a result of the discussions held with the Committee on Traffic and felt that was their best option but failing that they would then take a look at another tier of things which might involve it, but until they could get a consensus on this other approach they still felt it was valid and wished to explore it further.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Ald. Elise requesting that a line item be created in the CIP Program designated - Weston Tower/Area to be listed separately from the Derryfield Park Improvements.

Ald. Elise stated she really needed the Board's help with this request explaining that since 1992 she has had communications regarding the Weston Tower which was a 100 year old building as well as the area which was a thickly wooded area; that there were basically two problems: one, being the deterioration of the building and another is the area being thickly wooded thereby creating problems which the community as a whole really did not want; that she had talked to both Parks and Planning and believed that one of the reasons funding had not been allocated to that particular project was because it was bunched in with the whole Derryfield Park area and felt if it were broken out separately and viewed as a separate issue knowing full well that everyone was competing for funds to repair parks in their respective wards and if they broke it out separately and the Planning and Parks Departments viewed it as a separate issue from the Derryfield Park that maybe the problems regarding the building and the area could be taken care of easier and wished that the Board support her in sending it to the Parks and Planning Departments recommending that it be broken out as a separate issue and letting the priority system which already existed in terms of

allocating money to different projects take its course noting she was not asking for funds at this time, but merely viewing it as a separate issue.

Ald. Wihby thought that it should probably go to the Committee on CIP rather than Parks as CIP could decide whether it be set up as a separate item or not.

Ald. Elise indicated she would be pleased with that.

Ald. Elise moved to refer the communication from Ald. Elise to the Committee on Community Improvement Program. Ald. Domainque duly seconded the motion.

Ald. Pariseau stated he thought it would be micro-managing.

Ald. Elise stated she hoped if it would be a separate item it would assist in prioritizing the area.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 8 of the agenda:

Resolution:

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Year 1996."

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Ald. Domainque moved that the Resolution ought to pass. Ald. Wihby duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ald. Robert duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 9 of the agenda:

Personnel Committee Actions on agenda PC 4-96.

On motion of Ald. Reiniger, duly seconded by Ald. Robert, it was voted to recommend that Personnel Committee Actions on agenda PC 4-96 be approved. Ald. Hirschmann was duly recorded in opposition to the filling of the Planning position and the Information Systems position.

**TABLED ITEM**

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Domainque, it was voted to remove the following item from the table for discussion. The motion failed.

Communication from Ald. Hirschmann relative to department heads joining the "Pay Raise Freeze" effective July 1, 1996. (Tabled 4/16/96)

Ald. Hirschmann asked Mayor Wieczorek if he could address the tabled item briefly.

Mayor Wieczorek allowed Ald. Hirschmann to address the item requesting that he be brief.

Ald. Hirschmann stated Ald. Robert had brought up a good point about the Personnel Committee/Personnel system this evening noting he wished to move toward a lot of progress and thought that the department heads should be evaluated as administrators through the Personnel system rather than just be given a carte blanche raise indicating he did not wish to take a shot at department heads or the Aldermen, but thought they needed to change the way they did business; that the Board had taken a stand on it and it could be received and filed but noted he would be putting something forth in the near future so that there would be a policy as far as reviewing department heads was concerned.

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business to come before the Committee on Finance, on motion of Ald. Soucy, duly seconded by Ald. Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

  
Clerk of Committee

