

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**February 4, 1997**

**Upon Recess of BMA**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

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

**Messrs.:** K. Clougherty, H. Moran

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from the Finance Officer requesting authorization to utilize \$26,000 in EPD Replacement Account funds for the purchase of a portable emergency generator.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to authorize \$26,000 in EPD Replacement Account funds for the purchase of a portable emergency generator.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from the Chief of Police requesting the transfer of \$13,761 from Salaries to Special Projects in order to reimburse the Personnel Department for expenses associated with the Entry Level Police Department Testing, and also requesting that \$13,761 from the Contingency Account be set aside in the event that the Police Department falls short at year end due to this transfer.

Alderman Clancy moved to approve the budget transfer appropriation as requested by the Chief of Police. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I didn't realize that did we, as a Board, adopt a policy that we would do this, is this going to be a continuous request.

Mayor Wieczorek stated what I told him to do was to try to get it out of your own funds, if you can. If you can't, we will set aside the money from Contingency if they're going to be short. If they're not short they will use their own funds from their own budget.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he can't tell us, he's not sure...

Alderman Domaingue stated, your Honor, I'm sorry, but I'm not prepared to support taking that money out of Contingency because number one you're setting an example that any other department can go ahead and follow very quickly, depleting that Contingency account and, number two, the other reason is because when I ask for figures of the Finance Department of the Police Department Overtime account back in December, a period of one year, I discovered that their overtime had been spent in eleven months, very near what the amount of overtime had been spent in the 18-month budget and that gave me very grave concern, your Honor. So, I'm a little concerned that while we're allowing them to put this money aside in Contingency, they continue to spend at a rapid rate in overtime with what doesn't appear to be very much control. So, until I see some control in the overtime budget of the Police Department, I'm not going to support taking additional monies out of Contingencies for any other purpose.

Alderman Soucy asked is the money in overtime segregated for the off-duty work that they do or the off-duty overtime expenses they incur that are reimbursed, is there a separate account for the reimbursements or is that lumped into one.

Mr. Clougherty replied there is a separate accounting for the extra detail. For your information, there is a \$170,000 balance in Contingency presently and of the \$170,000 there's a \$20,000 amount that has been earmarked for the Police earlier this year to deal with some of these issues and that is still in force and that would be considered as part of the \$13,000, so there's \$150,000 of unreserved Contingency capacity.

Alderman Elise asked is this the \$13,000 by-product of the Police force leaving the City and going to other communities.

Mayor Wieczorek replied every two years they replenish their list of people they can draw from; that two years ago they had done the same thing and as they need to replace people, they just draw them from the list for a two-year period.

Alderman Wihby asked isn't it true that nobody wants to apply now because of what's going on.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I haven't heard that, where have you heard it.

Mr. Moran stated just for a matter of information, we have over a thousand applications that we are currently processing.

Alderman Wihby stated so we have a thousand names that we have to wait, why don't we just put them on the list as they come in.

Mayor Wieczorek replied, no, they have to take a test first, they have to pass that test, pass an agility test, pass an oral test and then they compile that list of people from whoever passes.

Alderman Wihby stated if we're short already, why wouldn't it have been done sooner, so that we don't have...

Mayor Wieczorek replied because this is when they asked us for it, they didn't ask us at the beginning of the budget year. When we were doing the budget, they hadn't asked for that.

Alderman Wihby stated so they didn't think we would have to go out.

Mayor Wieczorek replied, I can't tell you what they were thinking, I just know what they are asking us to do.

Alderman Wihby stated it seems they should have come to this Board sooner to do the testing because now they're already shorthanded and I don't know how long the process takes, but it must take another month or two, right.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it takes longer than a month.

Mr. Moran replied the complete process takes approximately two, two and a half months.

Alderman Wihby stated what I'm getting at is that they should have come to this Board two months ago because we're already shorthanded and whoever we lose in the next two months we're going to be that much more shorthanded for Police officers.

Mayor Wieczorek reiterated they do this every two years.

Alderman Wihby stated they should do it sooner, is what I'm getting at.

Mayor Wieczorek stated okay, they didn't, so the result is we're here now with what they're asking us to do. If you don't think they should do it and should have done it before, vote against it.

Alderman Wihby stated I don't have a problem with their doing it, your Honor, I just think they should have done it sooner.

Mayor Wieczorek replied they didn't, they came to us as soon as they could.

Alderman Soucy stated, your Honor, you said they do this every two years, if they do it every two years why wasn't it part of the original budget figure.

Mayor Wieczorek replied, I just got done telling you that they didn't think of it when they were into the budget season this time and whenever it came up over the last few months was when they decided they had to do it, get out the test and they didn't put the money in for the testing and you remember a couple of years ago, we even had a problem because it was supposed to be coming out of Personnel's budget and they didn't have the money.

Mr. Moran replied that is correct.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Shea, Domaingue and Hirschmann duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 5 of the agenda:

1994 CIP Budget Authorization:  
8.30397 ADA Compliance - Revision #1

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve the 1994 CIP budget authorization.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 6 of the agenda:

1997 CIP Budget Authorization:  
7.10215 Annual Parking Facility Rehabilitation - Revision #1

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to approved the 1997 CIP budget authorization.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 7 of the agenda:

1988 CIP Budget Authorization:

4.20315 Rimmon Street Station - Closeout

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to approve the 1988 CIP budget authorization subject to the final adoption of the related Resolutions.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 8 of the agenda:

1991 CIP Budget Authorization:

4.20317 Webster Street Station - Closeout

On motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve the 1991 CIP budget authorization subject to the final adoption of the related Resolutions.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 9 of the agenda:

1997 CIP Budget Authorizations:

2.50502 MEH Building Acquisition

6.40409 Elm Street Redevelopment Project Design

6.50220B Central Business District Improvement - Revision #3

7.10216 Annual Traffic Signal LED Replacement - Revision #1

The Clerk noted a typographical correction to 6.40409 on the budget authorization should reflect the administering department to be the Highway Department and not the Planning Department as that was the whole intent of the action in the first place.

On motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the 1997 CIP budget authorizations with the correction as noted, subject to the final adoption of the related Resolutions

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 10 of the agenda:

Resolutions:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Fifteen Thousand Seventeen Dollars and Twenty-four Cents (\$15,017.24) from the 1988 4.20315 Rimmon Street Station and 1991 4.20317 Webster Street Station Projects to the 1997 CIP 2.50502 MEH Building Acquisition.”

“Amending the 1988, 1991 and 1997 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds for the 1997 CIP 2.50502 MEH Building Acquisition.”

“Amending the 1997 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of \$160,600 for the 1997 CIP 6.40409 Elm Street Redevelopment Project.”

“Amending the 1997 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of \$13,858.00 to the 1997 CIP 7.10216 Annual Traffic Signal LED Replacement Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One Dollars (\$13,761.00) from Salaries Account to Special Projects Account to cover Entry Level Police Department Testing.”

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted that the Resolutions be read by titles only, and it was so done.

Alderman Sysyn moved that the Resolutions ought to pass. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Shea, Domaingue and Hirschmann duly recorded in opposition to the transfer of \$13,761.00 to cover Entry Level Police Department Testing.

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There being no further business to come before the Committee on Finance, on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee