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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 16, 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,
Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin, Robert, Hirschmann
Ald. Soucy arrived late.

MESSRS.: Assistant Solicitor Arnold, D. Hodgen

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Resolution:

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars and Forty Cents (\$69,520.40) from Salary Adjustment to School Salary Account."

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

On motion of Ald. Clancy, duly seconded by Ald. Hirschmann, it was voted that the Resolution ought to pass. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Hirschmann requesting the Committee on Finance adopt a budget constraint policy of department heads joining in the "Pay Raise Freeze", and asking the Finance Department to provide an impact statement regarding this policy.

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

Ald. Robert stated when the Board had done this asked hadn't there been some sort of verbal contract that that would be the case and asked if State Labor Laws would imply they were doing something illegal if the Board did what Ald. Hirschmann was requesting.

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Assistant Solicitor Arnold stated he had been asked the question previously and was currently in the process of researching noting he did not have an answer at this time.

Mr. Hodgen stated he did not know noting that those individuals were not organized so there was no labor contract involved, but he did not know what other considerations there might be.

Ald. Wihby stated they had given up health insurance in order to do it and he imagined if it was now taken away they would have to give them back their option for health insurance so he did not know what would be gained.

Ald. Sysyn thought that prior to her coming on Board they had had their salaries frozen previously noting that the Board had tried to make it more equitable as she remembered that a lot of people who worked under the departments heads were making more money than department heads, so that was one of the reasons it had been done, so everything would be fair.

Ald. Cashin stated the Board had given its word and he hoped it would keep its word noting they had not received raises in either five years or longer and to go back on their word would certainly send a very bad message out there.

Ald. Pariseau agreed with the consensus of Ald. Cashin noting the commitment had been made and the Board had given its word to the department heads last year and would not support the request of Ald. Hirschmann.

Ald. Domaingue state she would honor giving their word but as she recalled the newspaper accounts of what actually transpired was that the Board thought it was giving one level of raises when in fact it ended up being a much higher level of raises over the same period of time and thought given the state of the current budget crises what Ald. Hirschmann was attempting to do was to address it noting the Board might not chose to do so in this manner which was fine, but it didn't remove the fact that the impact was certainly more than she thought the Board had anticipated when it voted in the raises and as such she would want to hear directly from either the Negotiator or the City Solicitor's Office to determine if, in fact, it would be illegal and that would put that matter to rest, so perhaps Ald. Hirschmann would be willing to withdraw his motion and replace with that perhaps a tabling motion for the item until they could get that kind of a report on the issue.

Mayor Wieczorek inquired of Ald. Hirschmann if he would be willing to do so.

Ald. Hirschmann replied he would do so and thought he had brought to a focus what needed to be talked about namely salaries of City employees and department heads and let the City Solicitor's Office delve into whatever books he had.

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On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Domaingue, it was voted to table the communication from Ald. Hirschmann.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion.

Ald. Cashin stated he was opposed to tabling asking why was it being tabled.

Ald. Pariseau stated he did not think it would be illegal, but rather immoral to renege on their commitment that they had made last year and did not think the legal issue was relevant.

The motion carried with Ald. Cashin duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 5 of the agenda:

Request of School Board's Athletic Committee for payment of \$2,963.00 from the Athletic Gate Receipts Account to Trinity High School.

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Shea, it was voted to recommend approval of the request of the School Board's Athletic Committee for payment of \$2,963.00 from the Athletic Gate Receipts Account to Trinity High School. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee

