

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

September 3, 1996

Upon Recess of BMA

In the absence of Mayor Wieczorek, Chairman Wihby 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.: Solicitor Clark, R. Ludwig, H. Moran, R. Sherman

Chairman Wihby addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from the Deputy Finance Officer, advising that in action taken by the Board on August 6th it was voted to donate \$500.00 out of Civic Contributions to the South Little League; that since that time the City's 150th Birthday Committee has requested \$10,000.00 out of Civic Contributions, and notes there are two options at this time: (1) provide the 150th Birthday Committee with only \$9,500.00 or (2) supplement the \$9,500.00 with \$500.00 from Contingency.

On motion of Ald. Clancy, duly seconded by Ald. Sysyn, it was voted to approve option (2) to supplement the \$9,500 with \$500 from Contingency.

Chairman Wihby addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, requesting the Board consider allocating \$9,194.52 out of the City's Contingency account in order to fund an unanticipated severance obligation to a former Cemetery employee.

Chairman Wihby inquired of Mr. Sherman what the balance was in the Contingency account.

Mr. Sherman replied it was \$210,000.

Ald. Domaingue inquired of Mr. Ludwig why wasn't the money encumbered and set aside if, in fact, the department knew that that bill would have to be paid at some point.

Mr. Ludwig replied it had taken place in 1990 and believed it had been encumbered at that point and effectively turned back to the general fund; that at that time it was not held in escrow noting that was how he had interpreted it.

Mr. Sherman stated the first he knew of the whole situation was about two weeks ago when the check was being cut; that he could not recall back in 1990 what the case was, but the final benefits check was actually produced on the payroll system and was sent out and returned and at that point it had been voided and those funds at that point would have gone back into the Cemetery Department budget.

Ald. Domainque stated the City knew that there was pending litigation at that time.

City Solicitor Clark stated the employee was terminated based upon the City's ordinances because he was unable to return to his job; that the City under its process cut the appropriate checks and forwarded same to him and went to his attorney who challenged the City's process in court; that in the meantime the employee passed away; that the attorney for the employee then decided that rather than keep the checks and fight it through the court, he would send the checks back to the City indicating that they be redeposited or whatever as he did not feel it was right and that he should be employed and should be given a different type of retirement benefit, disavowing the money noting that eventually he lost in court and now they just wanted what had been originally paid to him; that somehow during the years it was redeposited into the general fund.

On motion of Ald. Shea, duly seconded by Ald. Hirschmann, it was voted to approve \$9,194.52 out of the City's Contingency account in order to fund an unanticipated severance obligation to a former Cemetery employee.

Chairman Wihby addressed item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Personnel Director, requesting that \$2,000.00 be appropriated from the Contingency account to the Personnel Department for the Total Quality Management Training session scheduled for September 11, 1996.

On motion of Ald. Shea, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted to approve the Personnel Director's request.

Ald. Pariseau asked why they couldn't take it out of the Personnel account #0271 like they did last year.

Mr. Moran stated last year he had received \$2,000 from the Contingency account to put into that account noting that this year it had been budgeted at zero, therefore, he was asking that it be placed into that account again this year.

Chairman Wihby addressed item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Chief Driscoll requesting a transfer in the amount of \$20,843.00 from the Contingency account as a local match for a U. S. Dept. of Justice, Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, to allow for acceptance of \$187,593.00 in federal funds for police personnel, equipment and training activities.

On motion of Ald. Shea, duly seconded by Ald. Domaingue, it was voted to approve Chief Driscoll's request for a transfer in the amount of \$20,843.00.

Chairman Wihby addressed item 7 of the agenda:

Bond Resolutions:

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of \$7,000,000 for the 1997 CIP 7.60323 Cohas Brook Interceptor."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of \$5,930,000 for the 1997 CIP 7.60322 Wastewater Treatment Plant."

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

Ald. Soucy moved that the Bond Resolutions ought to pass and lay over. Ald. Shea duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Wihby addressed item 8 of the agenda:

Resolutions:

"Amending the 1997 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for various School Department Grants."

"Rescinding a Resolution 'Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of \$5,000 for the 1996 CIP 8.20401 Archival Record Retrieval Project.'"

"Amending the 1994 and 1996 Community Improvement Programs transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of \$5,000 for the 1996 CIP 8.20401 Archival Record Retrieval Project."

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

On motion of Ald. Domaingue, duly seconded by Ald. Clancy, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass.

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

A True Record. Attest.

L. R. Denny
Clerk of Committee