

**CITY OF NORWALK
FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Bruce Kimmel, Chair; Douglas Hempstead, David McCarthy, John Igneri, Jerry Petrini, Travis Simms (7:16 p.m.)

STAFF: Fred Gilden, Comptroller

OTHERS: Council Member Shannon O'Toole Giandurco, Gerald Foley, Purchasing Agent; Lisa Biagiarelli, Tax Collector

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Kimmel called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

Mr. Kimmel said that he would like to have a discussion regarding overtime issues placed on the October agenda. He said that another issue had emerged regarding selecting the lowest responsible bidder.

He then announced that the Finance Department had requested withdrawal of the following Agenda Item:

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a tax abatement agreement with Washington Village Phase One Limited Partnership, to provide a 100% abatement for the 40 units of replacement public housing (for low and moderate income renters) and a 50% abatement for the 18 units designated as affordable housing, eligible for Low Income Housing Tax Credits – subject to the final agreement being approved by Corporation Counsel for language and terms.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no one present who wished to comment at this time.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING:**

July 10, 2014.

The following correction was noted:

Page 3, Vote:

Please change the following from:

- ** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- ** MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MR. WATTS OPPOSED THE ITEM.**
- ** MOTION PASSED.**

TO:

- ** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (PETRINI, MCCARTHY AND KIMMEL) AND TWO OPPOSED (HEMPSTEAD AND WATTS).**

- ** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED THE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2014.**
- ** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2014 AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (KIMMEL, HEMPSTEAD, MCCARTHY AND PETRINI) AND ONE ABSTENTION (IGNERI).**

Claims Committee: receive the monthly Claims Report: review and approve claims as required for Claims Report dated August 14, 2014 and September 11, 2014.

Narrative on Tax Collection dated September 11, 2014 - Receive Report and discuss.

Monthly Tax Collector's Reports - Receive Reports and discuss: July 31, 2014 and August 31, 2014.

Ms. Biagiarelli said that there were two items that the Committee had to approve, one of which had to do with overpayment for Stew Leonard's.

Ms. Biagiarelli then reported that the City currently has a 99.1% collection rate for last fiscal year. Mr. Kimmel said that he was very impressed. Ms. Biagiarelli reported that the City made over 5.1 million at the tax sales and cumulative the City has recouped 24 million with all the tax sales over the years. Delinquent tax notices have been sent out and the office is beginning to review business and personal property.

Mr. Hempstead recused himself from the item.

- ** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL CLAIMS REPORTS AS PRESENTED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Biagiarelli said that she would like to thank the Council Members who had spoken in her favor during her recent Council reappointment.

The Common Council hereby delegated to the Mayor or Director of Finance, subject to approve of the President of the Common Council, the Majority Leader of the Common Council and the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Common Council, or any two of them (“the Committee”), the authority to execute any and all documents related to the procurement of electricity from the Firm(s) participating in RFP #3448, electricity generating services, that provide the most favorable pricing, terms and conditions for the City, for a term not to exceed five (5) years, commencing January 1, 2015 thru December 31, 2019. Accounts various.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. Hempstead had a question about the contract. Mr. Foley, the Purchasing Agent, came forward to explain the timing involved so that when the RFP is returned, the committee can be briefed on the pricing. There is not a very big window to lock in pricing. Usually, there is a pre-authorization in place to sign.

Mr. Simms joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Foley then gave a brief overview of the reasons for a five year contract and the bidding process involved.

Mr. McCarthy said that he was pleased to see that both the City and the Board of Education were now on the same program. He asked about the outlying years. Mr. Foley said that it would most likely be a three year award and a decision would be made later about years four and five.

Mr. Petrini asked if there was a cap involved or a set price. Mr. Foley said that it is a locked in price for three years. He spoke about what the consultants said and gave a brief overview of the past price fluctuations.

Mr. Hempstead asked if Roosevelt School would be part of this. Mr. Foley said that he believed that it was. Mr. Hempstead commented that the Board of Education would be using part of that building, along with Tumblebugs and the Senior Center.

Mr. Kimmel asked if Mr. Foley had spoken with the Board of Education. Mr. Foley said that he had spoken with Mr. Rudl and the new Facilities Manager, along with their Purchasing Agency. Mr. Kimmel asked if the Board had approved this yet. Mr. Foley said that he would check with Mr. Rudl. Mr. Kimmel said that there was no one from the Board of Education on the committee that has reviewed the RFP. Mr. Foley said that he had worked with Mr. Opdahl many years ago. There was still time to make adjustments if needed. Mr. Kimmel said that this might need to be amended to include the BOE on the Council floor. Mr. Foley said that it just happened that both the BOE and the City's contract expired at the same time.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss and approve change to Tax Relief for Elderly Ordinance and forward change to the Ordinance Committee of the Common Council.

Mr. Kimmel then reviewed the results of the mill rate impact analysis as outlined in the memo dated September 2, 2014 with the Committee members.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. McCarthy said that there was a great discussion about this two months ago. Mr. Petrini said that he agreed with Mr. McCarthy and he felt that this was a move in the right direction. Mr. Hempstead reminded everyone that the State adjusts the rate; the City adjusts the rate accordingly. Mr. Kimmel asked what happened if the State did not increase the percentage. Mr. Gilden said that the Council would have to approve a change. Mr. Kimmel suggested that the Finance Claims should regularly review the ordinance.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to submit an application to the State of Connecticut for grant funds provided under the State of Connecticut's Local Capital Improvement Fund for Local Capital Improvement Program (\$632,242 – 2014 Entitlement).

Mr. Kimmel said that he had a few questions about the use of the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP), which he had raised in the past. He pointed out that there were municipalities that did not use up all the money from the funding and let it accumulate. He asked how the City handles the funding. Mr. Gilden explained that the City just deducts the amount from the expenditures.

Mr. Kimmel asked how the money is allocated and distributed to the various programs. Mr. Gilden said that usually the funding is allocated to the paving program. Mr. Kimmel asked what would happen if the Council decided they wanted the funding to go to another program. Mr. Gilden said that in the Capital budget, the five million is listed as being designated and the \$600,000 is included in that figure.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Kimmel asked why other municipalities decide not to spend the funding. Mr. Gilden said that he didn't know but thought perhaps the community was either waiting for a major project like a new school or were preparing for a major capital project and were still in the planning stages.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. MCCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service