

**Board of Finance Meeting
May 23, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Board of Finance was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers, 1st floor. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Mayor William T. Stortz, Chairman Richard Miecznikowski, Commissioners Robert J. Dunlap, John E. Smith, Ronald Messier, Donald Soucy, Delores Capers and Christopher Ziogas. Commissioner Roald Erling was absent.

May 30, 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular Board of Finance Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at 6:30 pm in City Council Chambers.

Agenda

1. Chairman Miecznikowski to call the meeting to order.
2. Approval of the following:
 - a. Minutes from the Regular Board of Finance Meeting April 25, 2006.
 - b. Minutes from the Special Board of Finance Meeting April 25, 2006.
3. Committee Reports:
Banking & Audit Committee Report- May 9, 2006 Meeting.
4. Tax Collector:
Transfer of \$440,676 of uncollectible taxes to the Municipal Suspense List (printout available in Comptroller's Office).
5. Police Department:
An additional appropriation totaling \$22,700 with \$17,025 funded by grant revenue and a City match of \$5,675.
6. Park & Recreation:
 - a. Transfer of \$600 from the General Fund Contingency.
 - b. Transfer \$1,099 funded by a reimbursement.
7. Community Services
 - a. Transfer of \$5,000 from the General Fund Contingency.
 - b. Transfer of \$400 from the General Fund Contingency.
8. Board of Education:
An additional appropriation totaling \$93,488 within the Special Education Grant Fund funded by grant revenue.
9. Public Works:
 - a. An additional appropriation of \$45,000 funded by a reimbursement.
 - b. Transfer of \$11,000 from the General Fund Contingency.
10. Comptroller's Office:
 - a. Transfer of \$400,000 from the General Fund Contingency.
 - b. An additional appropriation of \$807,255 funded by excess revenue.
 - c. Transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund Contingency.
11. New Business:
12. Old Business:
13. Any other matter to come before said meeting.
14. Adjournment.

**PER ORDER OF THE CHAIRMAN
Richard Miecznikowski**

**Glenn S. Klocko
Board of Finance Clerk**

1. Chairman Miecznikowski to call the meeting to order.

Chairman Miecznikowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the following:

a. Minutes from the Regular Board of Finance Meeting April 25, 2006.

Commissioner Messier made a motion seconded by Commissioner Ziogas.

“To approve the minutes from the Regular Board of Finance Meeting held on April 25, 2006 as presented.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

b. Minutes from the Special Board of Finance Meeting April 25, 2006.

Commissioner Capers made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“To approve the minutes from the Special Board of Finance Meeting held on April 25, 2006 as presented.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

3. Committee Reports:

Banking & Audit Committee Report- May 9, 2006 Meeting.

Commissioner Soucy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

“To accept the Banking & Audit Committee report as presented by Chairman Chris Ziogas from May 9, 2006 meeting and place it on file.”

The concerns with the auditors that were raised have been resolved after the Banking & Audit Committee met with Scully & Wolf. Commissioner Ziogas had questioned why our Deferred Compensation Plans were not audited. Assistant Comptroller Robin Manuele stated according to the Blue Book the City's Deferred Compensation Plans are not subject to audit because the City does not make any investment decisions or contributions. Each individual participant has control over their own plan.

Also discussed was the idea to focus on certain departments to perform a more in depth audit. The committee suggested the Comptroller's Office be the first office subject to this or another department can be discussed.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

4. Tax Collector:

Transfer of \$440,676 of uncollectible taxes to the Municipal Suspense List (printout available in Comptroller's Office).

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

"To transfer \$440,676 of uncollectible taxes; \$201,648 for Motor Vehicle, \$41,626 for Supplemental Motor Vehicle, and \$197,402 for Personal Property to the Municipal Suspense Account and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance."

Commissioner Soucy asked if we budget for uncollectible taxes. Comptroller Glenn Klocko said there is a percentage rate of about 2.5% the City uses when calculating the amount of taxes that will be collected.

Mayor Stortz commended Tax Collector Millie Funk and her staff for aggressively collecting taxes.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

5. Police Department:

An additional appropriation totaling \$22,700 with \$17,025 funded by grant revenue and a City match of \$5,675.

Mayor Stortz made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

"To refer the Memorial Day/Fourth of July DUI Enforcement grant to the Miscellaneous Matters Committee pending notification of grant approval from the State."

Chief Divinere stated the grant has been approved by the state and requested the funds be allocated.

Mayor Stortz rescinded his motion and made another motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

"To make an additional appropriation within the Special Grants & Donations Fund- Police Department totaling \$22,700 with \$17,025 funded by grant revenue and a City match of \$5,675 and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance."

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

6. Park & Recreation:

a. Transfer of \$600 from the General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Soucy made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“To transfer \$600 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the Park & Recreation’s Operating Budget for vehicle repairs.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

b. Transfer \$1,099 funded by a reimbursement.

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Messier.

“To make an additional appropriation totaling \$1,099 within the Parks Department Operating Budget- Memorial Boulevard funded by a donation and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

7. Community Services

a. Transfer of \$5,000 from the General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Ziogas made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

“To transfer \$5,000 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the Community Services Operating Budget for evictions and auction expenses”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

b. Transfer of \$400 from the General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“To transfer \$400 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the Community Services Operating Budget for travel expenses.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

8. Board of Education:

An additional appropriation totaling \$93,488 within the Special Education Grant Fund funded by grant revenue.

Commissioner Messier made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“To make an additional appropriation totaling \$93,488 within the Special Educational Grant Fund for Project Choice funded by grant revenue and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

9. Public Works:

a. An additional appropriation of \$45,000 funded by a reimbursement.

Commissioner Soucy made a motion seconded by Mayor Stortz.

“To make an additional appropriation totaling \$45,000 within the Public Work-Capital Projects funded by a reimbursement from ESPN for sidewalks and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

b. Transfer of \$11,000 from the General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“To transfer \$11,000 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the Public Works Operating Budget for the site improvements around City Hall and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

10. Comptroller’s Office:

a. Transfer of \$400,000 from the General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Smith made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“To transfer \$400,000 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the Public Works Capital Improvements account for the acceleration of paving projects and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

b. An additional appropriation of \$807,255 funded by excess revenue.

Commissioner Dunlap made a motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

“To make an additional appropriation totaling \$807,255 (per the attached listing) within the Equipment/Building Sinking Fund funded by General Fund interest income and conveyance tax revenue for the purchase of capital equipment and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.

The items listed were discussed during the budget process whereas the Board agreed to make the appropriation based on excess revenues generated mainly by an increase in interest rates.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

c. Transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund Contingency.

Commissioner Capers made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“To transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund Contingency Account to the Centre Mall Fund for relocation costs of mall tenants and to recommend approval of this action to a Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Finance.”

Mayor Stortz stated that some of this money will be returned to the Contingency Account once all the tenants are out of the mall. The remaining tenants are still paying rent to the City which include Ocean State Job Lot, Sherman Williams, Discount Food Outlet and Rent A Center. These four tenants also pay the highest rent to the City.

Commissioner Messier requested a year to date report of expenses for the Centre Mall Fund.

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

11. New Business:

Commissioner Ziogas addressed the Board regarding the debate of what to do with excess state funds. He stated the elderly are always brought up; however there are programs already in place that help the elderly funded by state funds and local community programs. Also, Commissioner Ziogas let the Board know his term is up in June and he will not be continuing as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Messier who is the liaison for the Fire Board wanted to make the Board of Finance aware of the fact the Fire Department brought up the issue of

hiring 2 additional bodies to fill potential vacancies. The Personnel Committee of the Fire Board said they would go to City Council and Salary Committee. Commissioner Messier felt the Board was out of the loop and should be notified because the Board provides the funding for the additional appropriation.

Commissioner Smith requested a legal opinion questioning if Salary Committee approves additional positions during the year does the Board of Finance have to add additional funds to the specific line item to fund these positions. Commissioner Smith does not feel the charter states the Board has to fund these positions.

Mayor Stortz stated the Fire Board is looking at it from an economic standpoint. By the time the hiring process is complete another vacancy will exist in the department.

Commissioner Dunlap wanted to commend those involved in the Street Festivities held on Saturday.

12. Old Business

13. Any other matter to come before said meeting.

Mayor Stortz stated a memo will be going out to all Boards and Commissioners looking for suggestions on ways to cut costs and reduce spending throughout the year, not only at budget time.

14. Adjournment.

Commissioner Erling made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dunlap.

“to adjourn at 7:16 p.m.”

Following a voice vote in which there was no opposition, the Chairman declared the motion carried.

Attest:



Glenn S. Klocko
Board of Finance Clerk