

**City of Woonsocket Budget Commission**

**City Hall**

**169 Main Street**

**Woonsocket, RI 02895**

**(401) 762-6400**

**Working Session Minutes**

**July 5, 2012 Open Meeting 3:00-4:00PM**

**City Hall, Third Floor - Harris Hall**

**All members are present.**

**Agenda Item #1 – Public Comment**

**Robert Berkelhammer, Esq., attorney for Omni Privilege LP, addressed the Commission.**

**Agenda Item #2 – Cash Flow Summary , City/School Purchases/Payments for Review, Account Payables**

**Chairman Sequino acknowledged that Cindy Brown, of the Department of Education, was present.**

**Finance Director Thomas Bruce gave a summary of cash flow reports**

and discussed payments before the Commission, including a wire transfer payment to Veolia Water in the amount of \$500,000 that was previously approved by the Commission.

Schools Superintendent Giovanna Donoyan discussed School Department payables and stated that the list before the Commission showed all payables to date, but that the School Department was still receiving invoices for services from last fiscal year. She stated that she would discuss reducing penalties and late fees with vendors.

Motion was made by Mayor Fontaine and seconded by President Ward to approve all payments as presented, and to ratify a previously approved payment of \$500,000 to Veolia Water, a voice vote on same being unanimous.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Omni Privilege Limited Partnership**

Attorney Berkelhammer stated that Joseph Caffey, President of Omni Development Corp., was present, and gave a summary of Omni's position on the matter of taxation.

Christopher Celeste, Tax Assessor, discussed the City's position on the matter.

President Ward asked Mr. Celeste to provide data regarding all PILOT properties showing what they pay and what they would be paying if

**they were taxed at 2011 values at the 2012 tax rate.**

**Chairman Sequino stated that he wanted an opinion from the Commission's attorney before making a decision on this matter.**

#### **Agenda Item #4 – Consolidation**

**David Eaton, Director of Budget Commission Affairs, gave a summary of the status of the plan for consolidation and asked the Commission to consider how it would like to proceed with evaluating each department.**

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Other Commission Items**

**The Commission discussed the scheduling of meetings in the Chairman's absence for the following week, agreeing to hold the meeting of July 9 and to cancel the meeting of July 12.**

**Chairman Sequino asked Dr. Donoyan for the resumes submitted for the controller position. Mayor Fontaine asked about the resume for the director's position, and Dr. Donoyan stated that the position had been advertised as Director/Controller and was then changed to just Controller.**

**Cindy Brown, of the RI Department of Education, stated that RIDE is reviewing the consolidation plan and making recommendations, and**

**that RIDE felt that the director's position should be filled.**

**Mayor Fontaine discussed filling the controller position immediately but postponing the hiring of the director until consolidation is complete. He stated that the request for bids for IT services includes an option for services to the School Department.**

**The Commission discussed the IT request for bids and the procedure for inclusion of bid packages in future dockets**

**Agenda Item #6 – 4:00PM Executive Session: Discussion with Union Leaders – Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2)**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Dutremble and seconded by President Ward to go into executive session, a voice vote on same being unanimous.**

**Motion was made by Chairman Sequino and seconded by Mayor Fontaine to return to public session, a voice vote on same being unanimous.**

**Chairman Sequino announced that no votes were taken during executive session.**

**Motion was made by President Ward and seconded by Mayor Fontaine to seal the minutes of the immediately preceding executive**

**session, a voice vote on same being unanimous.**

**Agenda Item #7 – Adjourn**

**Upon motion of Commissioner Dutremble seconded by President Ward it is voted that the meeting be adjourned at 5:40 P.M.**

**Attest:     Andrea M. Bicki   City Clerk**