

City of Woonsocket Budget Commission

City Hall

169 Main Street

Woonsocket, RI 02895

(401) 762-6400

Working Session Minutes

June 5, 2012 at 3:00 PM

City Hall, Third Floor, Harris Hall

All members were present.

Motion was made by Mayor Fontaine and seconded by President Ward to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 1, 2012, as submitted, a voice vote on same being unanimous.

Chairman Sequino stated that the items on the agenda would be taken out of order.

Financial Advisor David Eaton gave an update of the status of the Commission's website.

Fredrick Hartnett, Mark Steele, Ronald Aubin and Christopher Roberts addressed the Commission.

After discussion with Finance Director Thomas Bruce regarding the timetable of requirements for advertisement, passage and approval of the fiscal year 2013 budget and levy of taxes, motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer and seconded by Mayor Fontaine to advertise the public hearing on the budget for June 18, 2012, a voice vote on same being unanimous.

Commissioner Schaefer stated that he would like information on what the tax rates for the City would be using the State standard tax classification.

After discussion regarding the levy of a supplemental tax, each Commissioner stated support for the supplemental tax legislation pending in the House Finance Committee. Commissioner Schaefer stated that he would like to have a discussion with Representatives regarding the legislation and suggested Commission resolutions to support said legislation and to request information from the Division of Municipal Finance, Department of Revenue, regarding Woonsocket's ability to exceed the property tax cap without approval of that legislation.

Mr. Eaton summarized, and the Commission discussed, drafts of Commission policies pertaining to composition, open meetings, and the Commission's meeting schedule.

Mr. Bruce discussed purchasing and procurements policy.

Mr. Bruce and Schools Superintendent Giovanna Donoyan discussed various purchases and payments that were due. Mr. Jeff Partington, President of the Woonsocket Teachers' Guild, answered questions from the Commission.

Mr. Bruce and Dr. Donoyan discussed various City and School Department account payables.

Dr. Donoyan discussed the layoff status of forty-two School Department staff and requirements for notification and recall.

School Committeeman Christopher Roberts addressed the Commission regarding the School Committee's role in the hiring of a controller and business manager for the School Department. Chairman Sequino stated that the Commission would like the School Committee to follow its normal procedure and then make its recommendation to the Commission.

Chairman Sequino requested from Dr. Donoyan a list of the remaining forty-two employees who have received layoff notices. He requested an opinion from Mr. Bruce regarding consolidation, and a recommendation from the School Committee regarding the controller position and business manager position.

Upon motion of President Ward seconded by Mayor Fontaine, it was voted that Resolution No. 2, in support of legislation for the City of Woonsocket to impose a supplemental tax for fiscal year 2012, be passed, a voice vote on same being unanimous.

Resolution No. 3, requesting that the Division of Municipal Finance, Department of Revenue, evaluate whether or not the City of Woonsocket can exceed the property tax cap provisions of RIGL §44-5-2 for FY 2012 such that a supplemental tax levy could now be approved and implemented by the required authority (ies) without violating applicable statutory and/or case law and/or ordinances, was read into the record.

Upon motion of Mayor Fontaine seconded by President Ward, it was voted that the resolution be passed, a voice vote on same being unanimous.

The Commission discussed items to be included on the next agenda. Chairman Sequino requested that future meetings be held in the second floor conference room of City Hall.

Woonsocket City Councilman Albert Brien addressed the Commission, stating that he wanted to notify the Commission that he had filed an objection with the Attorney General's Office regarding the matter of the Wastewater Treatment Plant being discussed in closed session and that it was his belief that the matter did not meet

the requirements of RIGL §42-46-5 for closed sessions.

Upon motion of Mayor Fontaine seconded by President Ward, it was voted to go into executive session under RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (5), relating to the disposition of publicly held property, and RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (7), relating to the investment of public funds, to discuss the wastewater treatment plant contract proposal, a roll call vote on same being 4-0, with Commissioner Schaefer abstaining from voting.

Motion was made by Mayor Fontaine and seconded by President Ward to come out of executive session, a voice vote on same being unanimous.

Chairman Sequino announced that no vote had been taken during executive session.

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

Upon motion of President Ward seconded by Mayor Fontaine it is voted that meeting be adjourned at 5:27 P.M.

Attest: Andrea M. Bicki City Clerk