

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
May 16, 2016

1. Chairman Brasco called the meeting to order at 8:15pm.
2. Chairman Brasco requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – all Committee members were present.
3. Councillor Vizard moved that that the minutes of the meeting May 2, 2016 be accepted. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes were accepted.
4. A resolution was submitted by Vice-President LeBlanc concerning the minimum wage for City/School employees. Councillor Vizard moved to hear from an off-committee individual – Vice-President LeBlanc. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Vice-President LeBlanc explained the purpose of her resolution and requested information that would identify the positions that are currently paid less than the \$10/hour. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. The City Auditor explained the Mayor's recommended budget for FY2017 included funding to pay the minimum wage of \$10/hour effective, July 1, 2016 and \$11/hour, effective January 1, 2017. A motion to table the matter was adopted on a voice vote and the matter of the minimum wage was tabled.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to appropriate the amount of \$2,500,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to account Auditor-Medical Insurance #001-914-5200. Councillor Vizard moved to hear from an off-committee individual, City Auditor Paul Centofanti. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillors Vizard, Romard and McMenimen asked the City Auditor detailed questions about the City's health insurance program including the cost of the plans, how coverage is provided, the impact on the City's budget and the OPEB liability. The City Auditor also explained the likelihood of an additional appropriation before year end to provide for the medical expenses incurred by June 30 (IBNR). Councillor Vizard also expressed some concern over a significant drawn on the City's reserve funds. Councillor Vizard moved to approve the appropriation request. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the appropriation of \$2,500,000 was approved.

6. Councillor McMenimen moved to take the matter of the “traffic impact fee” resolution (4/11/2016) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen spoke of the legislative bill before the Senate Ways and Means Committee concerning zoning/land use. Councillor McMenimen expressed concern of the impact it may have on the City and if it would be in the City’s best interest. Councillor McMenimen move to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

7. Chairman Brasco asked the Committee for their input on the schedule of the upcoming budget review meetings with the City Departments, the School Department and the Mayor. After a brief discussion, it was decided to hold the first meeting on June 7 starting at 9:00am for City Boards/Commissions and City Departments. A second meeting would be scheduled for June 9 starting at 5:30pm for the School Department and followed at 7:00pm with the Mayor. The Auditor was requested to send the following questions to all departments to answer when they appeared.
 - Are there any significant increases/decreases in your FY2017 budget?
 - Are there any new positions to be funded in your FY2017 budget?
 - Are there any positions in the FY2016 budget that are currently vacant and are being requested again in the FY2017 budget?
 - If any portion of your FY2017 budget is to be funded by a grant, are matching funds required?
 - Please provide an estimate of the dollar amount of funds you expect to return to the General Fund at the FY2016 year end from unexpended salary and/or operating accounts.Councillor McMenimen also requested the Superintendent of Schools be prepared to also answer two additional questions.
 - The mandates (e.g. – ELL program, free/reduced lunch, etc) you are required to provide. Are any discretionary?
 - Superintendent’s response to the attached resolution/request on the Foundation Budget report.

10. A motion to adjourn by Councillor Giordano was approved by a voice vote and Chairman Brasco declared the Committee adjourned – 9:20pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Finance Committee