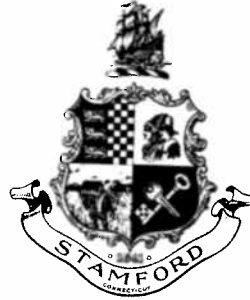


Minutes: May 14, 2015

DAVID R. MARTIN
MAYOR

JOHN J. LOUIZOS
CHAIRMAN
MARY LOU T. RINALDI
VICE CHAIR
GERALD BOSAK, JR.
SAL GABRIELE
RICHARD FREEDMAN
DUDLEY N. WILLIAMS
TEL: (203) 977-4699



BOARD OF FINANCE

STAMFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06904-2152

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2015: 6:30 PM

Board of Finance Meeting Room, 4th Floor

Call to Order: (Video- Hours: Minutes: 00:00) Performed by Chairman John J. Louizos at 6:38 PM, noting that all Members were present

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Louizos

Approval of Minutes: (Video: 00:12) April 9, 2015: 7:00 PM: Regular Meeting

	Approved
	5-0-0
	Motion by
	G. Bosak
	Second
(Ms. Rinaldi was out of the room when this vote was taken.)	
	D. Williams

Public Participation: None

Reports to the Board: (Video: 00:02) Mr. Freedman relayed to the Board that the Audit Committee held a meeting just prior to this meeting at which the Management Letter for the FY ended June 30, 2014 was reviewed including the City's response to address cited deficiencies. Mr. Bosak shared that he agreed to serve on the OTHRA Board upon nomination to the same.

Items are Shown in Order of Consideration

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Discussion

Item 1	Update: Labor contracts/Other litigation	No Action Taken
	Action Requested:	
	Amount:	
	Fund/Budget:	
	Submitted by:	
	Mayor David R. Martin	
	Video:00:01	
	<p>The Mayor reported that there were a couple of items that he would like to discuss in open session (video:00:01), noting the first of which related to Agenda Item # 15, an advisory opinion to the Mayor. He stated that he would like to adhere to the charter intended process of first updating the Board of Finance to gain their input, then requesting an advisory opinion, rather than the current practice which was to request an advisory opinion prior to seeking the Board's input. The Mayor then called the Board's attention to Agenda Item # 17- third quarter results and projections, stating that there was a 95% chance that the City would end the year in positive territory and further, that the surplus would be between \$500K and \$1M, noting that it would likely be closer to the higher estimate. He also shared that if the City were to issue a tentative, but not presently included building permit, the surplus could reach \$2M. The Mayor then advised the Board that he was ready to provide an update on current labor negotiations and pending litigation items and relating to the latter, asked the Board to also consider Item #18- under suspension of the rules- a part of which was also in executive session. On a motion by Mr. Williams (video: 00:04), which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to hear these items in executive session due to discussion of negotiations, strategy & litigation. In addition to Board of Finance Chairman John J. Louizos, Vice Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi and Members Richard Freedman, Dudley Williams, Sal Gabriele, and Gerald Bosak, the following individuals took part in executive session: Mayor David Martin, Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Director of Administration Michael Handler, Director of Legal Affairs Kathy Emmett, City Attorney Chris Dellaselva, Human Resource Director Clemon Williams, City Labor Negotiator Bob Murray, and City Engineer Lou Casolo, who joined the group for a portion of the discussion. After approximately 68 minutes, the Board exited executive session, with Chairman Louizos stating that no action was taken.</p>	

Discussion

Item 2	Discussion: URC Audit- Input for Scope		No Action Taken
	Action Requested:		
	Amount:		
	Fund/Budget:		
	Submitted by:	Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff	
Video:00:05	Mr. Pollard stated that he was seeking Board members input on a URC Audit scope just requested by the Board of Representatives at their 5/6/15 meeting (Res. 3714) related to the approval of the \$300K loan approved by Board at its March 12, 2015 meeting. Mr. Pollard advised that there were four primary objectives identified in the resolution, and that he already identified an eminently qualified individual who offered to provide this audit pro bono. Ms. Rinaldi stated that the soon to be released Blum Shapiro work in this matter, as well as Board of Rep committee meetings should be shared with this auditor. The Board members agreed to provide any input to Mr. Pollard shortly.		

GRANTS

Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program

Item 3	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$180,400 to be used for onsite remediation as part of the Boys and Girls Club renovation project.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	
	Amount:	\$180,400-	
	Fund/Budget:	100% Grant Funded: Repayment of Loan	
	Submitted by:	Karen Cammarota, Grants Administrator	
	Video: 00:14	Grants Administrator Karen Cammarota reported that the City had \$180,400 of funds which was repaid by a loan recipient that the City may use for any purpose. The Mayor has elected to provide these funds to the Boys & Girl's Club on Stillwater Avenue for their use for remediation costs. Ms. Rinaldi asked where the remediation area was, which was responded to by Operations Director Orgera as south of the playground that runs to Stillwater. The Board members acted to approve this item by unanimous vote.	

School Readiness Grant

Item 4	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$337,498 to allocate additional funds than were budgeted to pay subcontractors and to cover some of the increased cost due to the UAW contract settlement.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	
	Amount:	\$337,498	
	Fund/Budget:	100% Grant Funded	
	Submitted by:	Karen Cammarota, Grants Administrator	
	Video: 00:16	Grants Administrator Karen Cammarota reported that the	

	<p>City received \$337K more than expected from the State & that the funds are being used to pay their subcontractors as well as a portion going to Salaries resulting from the UAW settlement. Mr. Freedman asked if this was unexpected revenue, which was replied to by Ms. Cammarota in the negative, adding that they knew the State was raising its reimbursement rate, and they were 'catching up'. The Board acted to approve this item by unanimous vote.</p>	
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Community Development/Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Item 5	<p>Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$917,185 to appropriate funds received from developers back to the program to be used to make loans to developers who acquire and rehabilitate foreclosed property for affordable apartments or ownership housing.</p>		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$917,185	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	100% Grant Funded: Repayment of Loans	D. Williams
	Submitted by:	Karen Cammarota, Grants Administrator	Seconded
Video: 00:18		<p>Ms. Cammarota reported that the City receives loan repayment funds from developers who use the loan money to acquire & rehabilitate foreclosed properties. When the developers pay the funds back, the City gives all of the funds to the State, who retains 5%, then returns the balance to the City. In response to a question from Mr. Freedman, Ms. Cammarota advised that these funds were not designated for any particular expense, but rather program income which the City uses to keep the program going.</p>	S. Gabriele

Homeland Security Grant

Item 6	<p>Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$303,384 to be used for equipment, training and maintenance of assets benefitting the lower Fairfield County region for this program.</p>		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$303,384	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	100% Grant Funded	S. Gabriele
	Submitted by:	Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety	Seconded
Video: 00:19		<p>Ms. Cammarota reported that the state receives a certain amount of funds for Homeland Security that they divide among the State by region. The \$303K here represents lower Fairfield County's share which was decided by the regional Committee to spend on various programs including the USAI interoperable radio program, the bomb squad, training etc. Since the City of Stamford is acting as the fiduciary agent to administer the grant for the region, we will receive \$50K directly. The Board acted to approve this item by unanimous vote.</p>	D. Williams

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Transfer: Fire Overtime

Item 7	Request for Approval of Transfer from the Differential Account to the Overtime Account in the amount of \$35,000 to cover a shortfall in the latter due to a delay in hiring new firefighters.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$35,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:		M. Rinaldi
	Submitted by:	Peter Brown, Fire Chief	Seconded
Video: 00:20	Director Hricay explained that that this transfer is being requested to put the Fire department budget in alignment for the remainder of the fiscal year.		S. Gabriele

Additional Appropriation: Police Overtime

Item 8	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$417,598 to cover a shortage in the mandatory training component (\$250K) along with both regular overtime (\$100K) as well as Special Response Unit overtime (\$50K) along with related social security as well as standby time through the end of the fiscal year.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$417,598	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	D. Williams
	Submitted by:	Jonathan Fontneau, Police Chief or Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety	Seconded
Video: 00:21	OPM Director Hricay volunteered that this appropriation coincided with quarterly projections which indicated that the overtime budget was projected to be 'very close' at fiscal years' end, so this would provide them with more flexibility. Police Chief Fontneau advised that this cost was due to mandatory training which requires Police officers to renew their certifications in various areas.		G. Bosak

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

Acquisition of Rights of Way/Full Taking of 328 Greenwich Avenue

Item 9	Pursuant to Charter Section C1-50-3 & Section 9-7.1 of the Code of Ordinances, request for Approval of the Acquisition of 328 Greenwich Avenue for Greenwich Avenue/Southfield Avenue at Selleck Street Intersection Improvements Project.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Acquisition of 328 Greenwich Avenue	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Capital: CP 2232	R. Freedman
	Submitted by:	Mani Poola, Traffic Engineer	Seconded
Video: 00:22	City Traffic Engineer Mani Poola relayed that the City needs to acquire 328 Greenwich Avenue & demolish the building on it, as it is in the way for necessary intersection improvements for Greenwich Avenue/Southfield Avenue at Selleck Street. Mr. Poola explained that this request is the first step prior to negotiation with the owners of the property and the funds for this are contained within the Waterside Village Streetscape Capital Project.		S. Gabriele

Capital Project Closeout Recommendation

Item 10	Pursuant to City Code Section 8-2, recommendation of various capital projects full and partial closing totaling \$510,000 as the funds are no longer needed and are more urgently needed elsewhere (also see Items # 11 & 12, below).		No Action Taken
	Action Requested:	Capital Close-outs	
	Amount:	\$510,000	
	Fund/Budget:	Capital: Various	
	Submitted by:	Lou Casolo, City Engineer	
	Video: 00:24	City Engineer Casolo advised that since the Board of Education requested two capital projects be undertaken (see Items # 11 & 12, following), they would need to close other capital projects where the funds were no longer needed. (Note: pursuant to Stamford City Code Sec. 8-2, the Board may reject this recommended close-out within 60 days of notice and by a two-thirds vote of those present & voting. No Action is required if they choose not to reject the close-out.).	

Supplemental Capital Appropriation: Springdale Expansion: Code Work

Item 11	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 to enclose 8 'open' classrooms currently divided by half wall partitions with permanent walls and doors to eliminate noise and disruption between classrooms.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$250,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Capital: C36589	M. Rinaldi
	Submitted by:	Lou Casolo, City Engineer	Seconded
	Video: 00:26	City Engineer Lou Casolo explained that the Principal requested that the classrooms be closed to foster better learning. Chairman Louizos stated that this was a good idea.	S. Gabriele

Supplemental Capital Appropriation: District-Wide Paving/Resurfacing

Item 12	Request for Approval of Supplemental Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$260,000 for Toquam School entrance walkways and parking lot replacement which has been identified by the Board of Education as a top priority due to reports of injuries due to the bad condition of these areas.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Supplemental Capital Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$260,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Capital: C5B623	S. Gabriele
	Submitted by:	Lou Casolo, City Engineer	Seconded
	Video: 00:27	City Engineer Lou Casolo explained that these funds are to be used to pave and reconstruct sidewalks at Toquam school.	G. Bosak

Additional Appropriation: Vehicle Maintenance

Item 13	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$290,000 to cover a shortfall in vehicle maintenance due to the effects of a harsh winter along with the age of the vehicles.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$290,000	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	G. Bosak
	Submitted by:	Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations	Seconded
	Video: 00:29	Operations Director Orgera explained that this amount is expected to cover the department to the end of the year and reviewed the expenditures in each related account that comprised this deficit. Mr. Hricay advised that this was previously forecasted in the 2 nd quarterly report.	D. Williams

SMITH HOUSE

Additional Appropriation: Nursing Services

Item 14	Request for Approval of Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$530,362 to cover a shortfall in nursing services.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Additional Appropriation	5-1-0
	Amount:	\$530,362	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	Contingency	S. Gabriele
	Submitted by:	Bob Mislow, Dir. of Smith House	Seconded
	Video: 00:31	Director Mislow advised that this appropriation is being sought because Smith House incurred higher than anticipated expenses for fuel (\$35K) as well as nursing due to the fact that they incurred additional costs due to re-classifications of part time nurses to permanent part time. Ms. Rinaldi asked Mr. Mislow why then they did not track the hours of part-time individuals before they became permanent, causing the City to pay benefits. The Board acted to approve this item by a vote of 5-1-0, with Ms. Rinaldi casting the dissenting vote.	G. Bosak

Lease Agreement

Item 16	Request for Approval Lease Agreement between the City of Stamford & the Honorable Jim Himes, U.S. Congress for lease of space on the 10 th Floor of the Government Center at 888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT for the period January 3, 2015 through January 2, 2017.		Approved
	Action Requested:	Approval of Agreement	6-0-0
	Amount:	\$1,796.47/mo to City	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:		D. Williams
	Submitted by:	Kathryn Emmett, Director of Legal Affairs	Seconded
	Video: 00:40	Director of Administration Michael Handler advised that this was a renewal for a lease agreement for Congressman Himes which was tied to his congressional term and allowed for a 2 % increase from the previous lease. The Board acted to approve this agreement by unanimous vote.	M. Rinaldi

ITEM HEARD UNDER SUSPENSION OF RULES

Approval of Bid Waiver

Item 18	Request for Approval of Bid Waiver in the amount of \$175,000 (NTE) for emergency provision of windows at Childcare Learning Center, vendor to be determined) due to present contractor's failure to perform.	Approved
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	Action Requested: Bid Waiver	5-1-0
	Amount: \$175,000 (nte)	Motion by
	Fund/Budget:	R. Freedman
	Submitted by: Michael Handler/Lou Casolo	Second
	Video: 00:42 On a motion by Mr. Freedman, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, the Board agreed by unanimous vote to hear this item under suspension of the rules. Director of Administration Michael Handler relayed to the Board that the vendor who was originally to provide windows at Childcare Learning Center in time for occupancy in August, failed to order the correct windows. City Engineer Casolo is requesting this bid waiver since time was of the so that CLC may occupy the building in August. The Board acted to approve this bid waiver with Ms. Rinaldi casting the dissenting vote.	D. Williams

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

3RD Quarter Projections

Item 17	Update: FY 2015-15 3 rd Quarter Update/Projections	No Action Taken
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	Action Requested: Update	
	Amount: \$	
	Fund/Budget:	
	Submitted by: Jim Hricay, Director of OPM	
	Video: 00:43 OPM Director Hricay reported that the City would end the year with a nearly \$500K surplus, assuming full use of contingency, & exceeding 2 nd quarter projections by \$1.4M (noting a formerly projected \$900K deficit) mainly due to solid revenues in the building permit and conveyance tax areas. Problem areas were identified as Smith House which is expected to have a nearly \$2M greater than expected loss due to both a revenue shortage (\$1.5M) due to a reduced census coupled with an expenditure overage resulting in a nearly \$2M loss. The expenditure overage is mainly due to the salary costs of nurses (also, see associated additional appropriation request # 14). Mr. Hricay also shared that ticket revenues were down, but that the department advised they would do better. He also noted that Police spending is over by \$500K due to overtime (also, see related additional appropriation request # 8), both which were noted in the 2 nd quarter projections.	


OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Advisory Opinion

Item 15	Pursuant to the City of Stamford Charter Sec. C6-20-7 (b), request for Advisory Opinion to the Mayor on the total cost and long term burden of the proposed agreement between the City of Stamford and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 30 for the 3 year period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.	Advisory Opinion to be Provided
	Action Requested: Advisory Opinion	
	Amount: \$	
	Fund/Budget:	
	Submitted by: Clemon Williams, Dir. of Human Resources	
Video: 00:53	Mr. Gabriele stated that since the Board of Representatives did not go into executive session to review labor contracts, there was a disconnect by the Board of Finance taking this action. Board Member Williams pointed out that since the Board of Finance was charged with providing an advisory to the Board of Representatives, that they necessarily took up this item earlier in the sequence. Ms. Rinaldi concurred; also sharing that she did not feel comfortable discussing this item in open session. Chairman Louizos then called for a motion to enter executive session due to discussion of strategy related to this request which HR Director Williams advised was not yet signed off by the union members. On a motion by Mr. Bosak, which was seconded by (Board Member) Williams, the Board agreed to enter executive session to discuss this item. In addition to Board of Finance Chairman John J. Louizos, Vice Chair Mary Lou Rinaldi and Members Richard Freedman, Dudley Williams, Sal Gabriele, and Gerald Bosak, Director of Administration Michael Handler and Human Resource Director Clemon Williams also participated in executive session. After approximately 20 minutes, the Board exited executive session with Mr. Louizos advising that no action was taken, and an advisory opinion would be provided to the Mayor.	

Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Thursday, June 11, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: (Video: 01:12) On a motion by Mr. Williams which was seconded by Mr. Bosak, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn this meeting at 8:59 PM.


Lorraine C. Gilden

Lorraine C. Gilden
Clerk of the Board