

Finance Committee

Chairman Boisselle, Heavey, Wright,
Infurna, Brodeur
Attending: Mortimer, Seaboyer
In attendance: Mayor Dolan

Finance Committee called to order by Chairman Boisselle at 7:30 p.m.

Order No. 07-111, APPOINTMENT Of: Patrick Dello Russo to the position of City Auditor/Chief Financial Officer, effective February 5, 2007 in accordance with City of Melrose Charter, Section 3-3.

Mayor Dolan says under the new charter the process to appoint the City Auditor has changed. He is pleased to ask the Board of Aldermen to reappoint Patrick Dello Russo. The City is lucky to have him and the fiscal recovery in Melrose is attributable to Mr. Dello Russo's leadership and guidance. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

Mr. Dello Russo says he wants to personally thank the Mayor and the Board for the tremendous support given to him. Things are difficult at times and without that support he would not be able to do his job.

Alderman Infurna concurs with the Mayor's accolades about Mr. Dello Russo. He is always ready to provide answers to the Board of Aldermen. He is adept at discussing the numbers and shedding light on financial issues for them. She thanks him for everything he does for the City.

Alderman Brodeur says that Mr. Dello Russo's service to the City entails speaking with the public and giving answers – sometimes very detailed answers – which he appreciates.

Alderman Infurna moves to recommend the appointment, 2nd by Alderman Wright. All in favor.

Order No. 07-126, Appointment of Susan E. Krasco to the position of Assistant City Clerk. This appointment will fill the present vacancy and expire on the first Monday in February, 2008

Alderman Wright moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. Alderman Infurna says that Ms. Krasco has been working in the city clerk's office for a few years and asks if she has any vision coming into this position to improve current office practices and procedures. Ms. Krasco says she would like to overhaul the way licenses are handled. That practice is very outdated and she has enlisted the Licensing Director in Chelsea to assist her in setting up the necessary databases. Alderman Infurna asks if it will require purchasing any new software programs. Ms. Krasco says she will work with the programs she already has.

Alderman Wright moves to the motion, 2nd by Alderman Heavey. All in favor.

Alderman Wright motions to recess, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor. Finance committee recesses at 7:40 p.m.

Legal and Legislative Matters

Chairman Wright, Heavey, Boisselle,
Brodeur, Infurna
Attending: Mayor Dolan, IT Director
Jorge Pazos

Legal and Legislative Matters called to order by Chairman Wright at 7:41 p.m.

Order No. 07-118, TRANSFER Amount: \$4,413.00 From: 011751-511000 Planning, Salaries \$636.00; 011512-544310 City Solicitor, Property Insurance \$3,777.00; To: 011552-525305 Info Tech, Community Notification \$4,413.00 These funds are necessary for the purchase of a community notification system.

Alderman Infurna moves to recommend for discussion purposes, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle.

Mayor Dolan says he informed the community in his State of the City address that he planned to purchase this notification system to notify parents of critical situations and general information. A lot of planning went into this with MEMA Director Ed Kelly, Superintendent Joe Casey and IT Director Jorge Pazos. After testing the system they believe this is a good value for the dollar. Mr. Pazos says this funding request will carry them through the end of this fiscal year. It is not software; the City inputs the data.

Alderman Boisselle asks if it will cost \$8,000.00 next year. Mayor Dolan says it costs \$3.00 per student at 3400 students. This order includes the initial set-up charge. Alderman Boisselle asks if it is currently to be used only by the school system; Mayor Dolan says yes. Alderman Boisselle asks if it may be used city-wide at an additional charge; Mayor Dolan says yes. Alderman Boisselle asks why the City is paying for this if it is only serving the school. Mayor Dolan says that the school is in a financial crunch and this program serves as much as an emergency management tool as it serves as a tool for the school. He says it should be in the school budget but he made the decision to use City funds. There is a need to identify when a student is absent, and this system can notify parents right away.

Alderman Heavey asks if this system's notification is a recorded voice message. Mr. Pazos says yes, it is prerecorded. Alderman Heavey asks if he thinks this system is necessary given that MMTV does such a good job notifying residents of emergencies. Mr. Pazos says he does think it a necessary tool because many parents are at work and not at home watching television.

Alderman Brodeur says that some of these companies are less than stable. Mr. Pazos says the company they have chosen is one of the first to offer this service and in fact is a premier company. Mayor Dolan says that the Superintendent of Schools has developed a good relationship with the company over the years. Alderman Brodeur asks who has access to the data, and how secure the system is. Mr. Pazos says the City will take the extract and upload it to the company. The information is immediately removed from their server and is not available to the public. He says the company has assured the City that its system is secure.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Alderman Boisselle motions to recess, 2nd by Alderman Brodeur. All in favor.

The Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters recesses at 7:54 p.m.

The Finance Committee reconvenes at 7:55 p.m. Order No. 07-116, TRANSFER Amount: \$10,000. From: 017512-549102 – Municipal Debt Interest To: 015432-544000 – Veterans, Benefits The funds are necessary to continue to provide benefits for our veterans. Chairman Boisselle says this has been recommended from the Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

Alderman Infurna motions to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Heavey. All in favor.

Order No. 07-118, TRANSFER Amount: \$4,413.00 From: 011751-511000 Planning, Salaries \$636.00; 011512-544310 City Solicitor, Property Insurance \$3,777.00; To: 011552-525305 Info Tech, Community Notification \$4,413.00 These funds are necessary for the purchase of a community notification system. Chairman Boisselle says this order was recommended from the Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters.

Alderman Heavey moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Wright. All in favor.

Order No. 07-119, TRANSFER Amount: \$5,808.62 From: 014221-511000 Highway Salaries \$5,808.62 To: 015411-511000 Council on Aging Salaries \$3,714.50; 011552-522000 IT Telephone \$594.12; 015412-527700 Council on Aging Building Repair/Maintenance \$1,500.00 as set forth herein. Chairman Boisselle says this has been recommended from the Health, Education and Welfare Committee.

Alderman Heavey moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Alderman Infurna motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Wright. All in favor.

Finance Committee adjourns at 8:00 p.m.

Legal and Legislative Matters reconvenes at 10:38 p.m.

Order No. 07-107A, Proposed Ordinance amendment to Melrose Revised Ordinances Chapter 198, §198-1 and §198-2 – Solid Waste as submitted by the Solid Waste Committee as set forth herein. (AL-4) Alderman Heavey moves to recommend for discussion purposes, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle.

Alderman Brodeur asks what changes were made. Alderman Seaboyer says basic housekeeping in regards to what the Health Department can enforce, and in bringing the language up to date.

Chairman Wright suggests amending the title of the order to read: Amending Melrose Revised Ordinances Chapter 198, Solid Waste, §198-1 and §198-2, as set forth herein. So moved by Alderman Heavey, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Alderman Heavey moves to recommend as amended, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Order No. 07-107B, Proposed Ordinance amendment to Melrose Revised Ordinances Chapter 198, §198-4 – Solid Waste as submitted by the Solid Waste Committee as set forth herein. (AL-4)

Chairman Wright suggests amending the title of the order to read: Amending Melrose Revised Ordinances Chapter 198, Solid Waste, §198-4 as set forth herein. So moved by Alderman Heavey, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle.

Alderman Heavey moves to recommend as amended, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Alderman Heavey motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Brodeur. All in favor.

The Committee on Legal and Legislative Matters adjourns at 10:46 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees