

CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 2, 1961

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL

The Chair calls for nominations for the office of President of the City Council and Mr. Wexler nominates Edward P. Quigley; this nomination is seconded by Mr. O'Connor.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted nominations be closed, and the City Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Quigley as President of the City Council.

The Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Quigley as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares Edward P. Quigley duly elected President of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the First Monday in January, 1963.


D. EVERETT WHELAN
CITY CLERK

CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespie
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 2, 1961


ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The Chair calls for nominations for the office of President Pro Tempore of the City Council and Mr. Luongo nominates Jerry Lorenzo; this nomination is seconded by Mr. Boyle.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted that nominations be closed and the Clerk is directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Lorenzo as President Pro Tempore of the City Council.

The Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Lorenzo as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares Jerry Lorenzo duly elected President Pro Tempore of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1963.


D. EVERETT WHELAN
CITY CLERK

CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 2, 1961

ELECTION OF CITY CLERK

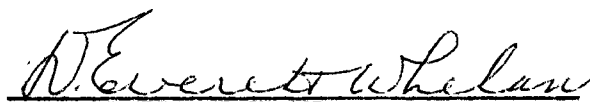
The Chair calls for nominations for the office of City Clerk and Mr. Gallogly nominates D. Everett Whelan as City Clerk and this nomination is seconded by Mr. Matera.

There being no further nominations, on motion of Mr. Wexler, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, it is voted that nominations be closed and the First Deputy City Clerk be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Whelan as City Clerk.

The First Deputy City Clerk casts one ballot for Mr. Whelan as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares D. Everett Whelan duly elected as City Clerk for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1963.

The oath of office is thereupon administered to D. Everett Whelan as City Clerk by Mayor Walter H. Reynolds.


D. EVERETT WHELAN
CITY CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, D. EVERETT WHELAN, do

*solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge
the duties of the office of*

City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

D. Everett Whelan

or

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 2nd *day of* January, *A. D. 19* 61,

I did administer unto D. EVERETT WHELAN

duly appointed to the office of

City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

CITY OF PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

January 2, 1961

To the Honorable the City Council
of the City of Providence.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions
of Section 37, Chapter 832 of the Public Laws
of 1940, I have this day appointed Vincent
Vespia of Providence, as First Deputy City
Clerk and William E. McWilliams of Providence,
as Second Deputy City Clerk.

Respectfully,

D. Everett Whelan

D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

DEW:rmm

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 2, 1961
READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

D. Everett Whelan
CLERK

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, VINCENT VESPIA, do

*solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge
the duties of the office of*

First Deputy City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

Vincent Vespia

~

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 2nd *day of* January, A. D. 19 61,

I did administer unto VINCENT VESPIA

duly appointed to the office of

First Deputy City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE CITY OF



PROVIDENCE

I, WILLIAM E. McWILLIAMS, do

*solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States
and of the State of Rhode Island and that I will faithfully discharge
the duties of the office of*

Second Deputy City Clerk

to the best of my ability.

William E. McWilliams

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 2nd *day of* January, *A. D.* 1961,

I did administer unto WILLIAM E. McWILLIAMS

duly appointed to the office of

Second Deputy City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds

Inaugural Address of WALTER H. REYNOLDS, Mayor, Delivered January 2, 1961

TO THE HONORABLE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE:

Gentlemen:

The registered voters of the City of Providence, on Tuesday, November 8th, placed in our hands the responsibility for management of this City's municipal affairs for the next two years.

This is a responsibility which we actively sought and which we welcomely accept. I am sure that you Gentlemen, both those re-elected and those newly elected are, like myself, gratified to be chosen, and determined to justify this choice by a constructive program of action during the next two years which constitute our present term of office.

I think perhaps the most dramatic challenge lying before us is in the field of urban renewal. It is a source of great satisfaction to me - and I believe to our citizens as well - that by virtue of the support and encouragement of its City Council, Providence is as well prepared as any city in America to accept this challenge.

Back-stopped and afforded direction by a City Plan Commission with a competent professional staff, we have a redevelopment agency which is second to none. By virtue of affirmative action by this Council we have pending before the federal government an application for funds for a Community Renewal Program which will undertake upon a city-wide basis to determine our total renewal needs.

To finance projects presently in preparation - Lippitt Hill,
Central-Classical, Mashapaug Pond and the East Side Renewal
Project involving a large segment of historic preservation -
we have adequate funds in existing bond authorities, including
the eleven million dollars in redevelopment bonds approved at
referendum in the election just past.

The Honorable Members of this Council demonstrated
their confidence in the redevelopment program only last month
by approving an expansion of the staff necessary to execute
these projects. In addition you made supplementary funds
available to increase further the already successful function
of the Providence Redevelopment Agency as the City's Industrial
Commission. I thank you for this action and congratulate you
upon your prudence and foresight in so doing.

I believe that with the foregoing measures we are well prepared for what I anticipate will be an eventful two years in this field. President-elect John F. Kennedy has already indicated that at the federal level prompt action will be forthcoming to secure an accelerated program of renewal for cities, aid to depressed areas, and possibly other programs designed to assist the majority of this nation's citizens who are urban dwellers. I can assure you that Providence will be in the forefront in developing these aids for the welfare of our citizens.

In addition to urban renewal action upon our own initiative we can confidently expect that the State of Rhode Island will continue its schedules of freeway and expressway construction. Further, in accord with the closer relationship being developed nationally between the Urban Renewal Administration and the Bureau of Public Roads, I would expect from the new administration at the State House a receptive and cooperative relationship between city planning and redevelopment in Providence and the state highway planning and engineering program.

This is essential if we are to preserve certain of our open areas from encroachment as well as achieve a full realization of over-all development goals.

I have already referred briefly in this message to the expansion of the Industrial Commission functions of the Providence Redevelopment Agency. This is an extremely important service, and exercised in conjunction with land clearance for industrial renewal, can be of spectacular value in retaining investment and employment opportunities in Providence, as well as in securing the commitment of new firms and businesses.

With accelerated renewal in terms of redevelopment and rehabilitation as well as freeway construction, we must continue to be concerned with adequate measures for the relocation of families and businesses displaced by public improvements.

In the Family and Business Relocation Service we have a division 7
equipped by training and experience to handle residential relocation
in a manner both competent and humane. The fine record of the
Relocation Service has been cited too often in the past to require
repetition here.

It is, of course, incumbent upon us to seek every
practical means of relocating our citizens - where relocation may
be required - in decent, safe and sanitary dwellings regardless
of the race, creed or color of the potential occupant. To fulfill
this objective it seems evident that we must take a larger portion
of leadership in the task of fostering an increased public awareness
of the need for relocation housing upon an open occupancy basis.

Accompanying these measures we must look to the Division of Minimum
Housing Standards to intensify its already considerable program of
inspection and correction of housing deficiencies to effectively
improve the quality of the relocation housing market.

To accomplish this I shall recommend to you Gentlemen shortly a further addition of housing inspectors to the staff of this division in order that we may carry on this task at a rate more nearly consistent with the increased activity anticipated in the field of urban renewal as a whole.

I have refrained up to this point from any mention of our downtown business district in the context of urban renewal, not because it does not fit into this context, for it definitely belongs there, but rather because it is of such great importance that I wished to discuss it separately.

The City Plan Commission during the past year has completed and recommended a comprehensive plan for the rejuvenation of our downtown business district. This, as you Gentlemen know, was financed by the federal government in part, and in part by the City of Providence and by private subscription funds.

Task forces of interested and able citizens contributed time and talent to proposals for bringing new life and new vitality to our business center. Upon completion of the plan, this interest culminated in the organization of Impact, R. I., Inc., an aggregation of interested and influential persons who, through this corporation are directing their efforts toward obtaining, through public and private means, an early execution of the numerous phases of downtown development.

This administration has already established a policy of cooperation with this group and I am sure will continue to cooperate. Through establishment of a Special Committee to Assist in Implementation of the Downtown Master Plan, this forward-looking Council has already placed itself on the record regarding its desire for progressive action in this area.

Q
You Gentlemen have also approved an application for planning funds for the Weybosset Hill Project and have requested the City Solicitor to present legislation to the General Assembly to secure authority to develop a downtown shoppers' pedestrian mall. With the cooperation of the State Department of Public Works which I believe will accept a recommended redesign of the downtown freeway interchange, with the assistance of Impact in securing relocation of the New Haven Station and other substantial private action required to fulfill the downtown plan, I am optimistic concerning the possibilities of a dramatic up-grading of our central business district. Basic to this optimism is, of course, the successful conclusion of the struggle to obtain construction of a hurricane barrier to protect our high value district.

This has been a victory for which credit has been widely deserved and should be widely recognized - including valuable contributions to final action by this City Council, by our Washington delegation, by an affirmative attitude on the part of state government, by civic and business organizations, and by no means least, by popular support at the polls which provided the necessary thirty percent local financing. The role of the Corps of Army Engineers relative to planning, design and general information concerning the barrier has been essential.

In only one area of downtown renewal do we appear to have a serious deficiency - the matter of reasonably sufficient and moderately priced off-street parking. Many approaches have already been made to this problem, some of which have enjoyed a measure of success, some of which have been less successful.

Sometime ago this Council approved legislation permitting a tax moratorium upon newly constructed parking structures for a period of twelve years where such structures would increase by one hundred percent the amount of parking previously available upon the site of construction. I think that this has been a significant - if not the most significant - factor in the development of several new facilities. The gradual development of validation parking as a means of self-help on the part of merchants has been likewise a reasonably successful venture.

The fact is, however, that despite these and other means taken to encourage and promote the growth of downtown parking, we have today, for a variety of reasons, almost two thousand fewer spaces than existed four years ago. It is also noteworthy that only seven percent of our spaces are in off-street garages - the most efficient parking facility.

I believe that we should proceed immediately with acquisition and construction of a first off-street garage site for which I shall introduce the necessary legislation before this Council at the earliest opportunity.

Of definite importance in this situation is the matter of public transit. I am very glad to note that the Impact organization is preparing a program for action on this, and I look forward to the opportunity to view their recommendations. Basically this is a metropolitan problem, but it is one of vital concern to our core area.

In all of these programs financing will be an important problem. Departmental services will in themselves require additional expenditure. The general inflationary trend has created a lag in salaries which makes a general pay raise appear to be inevitable with the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Where are we to secure the revenue for pay increases and for capital investment in our city's future? There are two sources. One is to increase municipal income. The other is to cut municipal costs wherever possible to offset new expenditures. Both means must be put to work.

While comprehensive figures are not yet available upon the revaluation study approved by this Council, it is presently estimated by those closest to the revaluation that upon a basis of equalization of assessments about thirty percent of real property if changed at all will be revalued at less, and the remaining seventy percent, if changed, will be increased in value. I repeat that this is solely upon a basis of equalized assessment. The net result of increases and decreases will provide about one and one-half million dollars in new revenue at the present tax rate. It seems probable that we will need this much, and that the existing rate will probably have to be maintained.

It is my intention to request the General Assembly, preferably with the consent and support of the Municipal Chief Executives Association, for three million dollars from the State of Rhode Island in new state assistance to towns and cities, about one-third of which would accrue to the City of Providence.

If this request is properly presented and supported by our legislators at the State House, aided by their colleagues from outside Providence, and enacted into law, it looks as if any further tax increase would be unnecessary in the near future.

As to the possibility of savings there are several areas in which there appears to be good possibilities:

- (1) We should approach the General Assembly as we did last year to take over the City's Charles V. Chapin Hospital. There is no doubt this is an institution affording state-wide service, and with proper support by our representatives and senators from Providence, I think the state will accept this responsibility. If so, we can save about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars which is the currently estimated deficit.

(2) We need to take a good look at the Smith Estates and possibly other city-owned real estate. I am convinced that selling these properties and thereby putting them on the tax rolls, will not only save administration and maintenance costs, but with re-investment of the principal we can secure a larger net income.

(3) We must economize by every possible means. This will involve re-examination of positions in the city service as they become vacant to determine whether the duties of the position might, for example, be divided and redistributed and the position allowed to remain unfilled. We must analyze in detail some of our city functions, particularly those of a traditional nature, to determine whether new methods and procedures might further increase efficiency and savings.

This kind of analysis is especially important.

It is the kind which our Public Safety Commissioner has been preparing in the Police Department which has special problems as evidenced by F.B.I. reports on Providence and other cities of our population size.

We must be very conscious that this administration has been in office for ten years and we must be most careful to guard ourselves against the accumulation of routine in our approach to our duties and responsibilities. A particular procedure, or a method of operation, must have more to commend it than merely that "it has always been done this way" or that this was a good method six years ago, or ten years ago. It may be trite to observe that "times change" but it is valuable to remember this, as well as to note that progress depends upon our own flexibility in changing with the times.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, we have before us potential opportunities for progressive accomplishments. We can foresee a vigorous program of renewal and modernization. We must - and shall - examine and review our services. We must spend wisely - for that is constructive. We must economize prudently - for that is thrifty. Above all we must serve the citizens of this city equitably and with honor.

This we will do, and I know that you Gentlemen of this City Council join with me a common dedication to this task and with firm determination that with God's blessing we shall be successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter H. Reynolds
Mayor of Providence

IN CITY COUNCIL

JAN 2 - 1961

READ:

N. Everett Whelan
CLERK