

CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 5, 1953

ION OF PRESIDENT OF CITY COUNCIL

The Chair calls for nominations for President of the Council and Mr. Lorenzo nominates Thomas S. Luongo and this nomination is seconded by Messrs. Matera and Loughran.

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 be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Luongo as President of the City Council.

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

The Chair thereupon declares Thomas S. Luongo duly elected President of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1955.

D. Everett Whelan
D. EVERETT WHELAN,
CITY CLERK.



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IN CITY COUNCIL
January 5, 1953

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF CITY COUNCIL

The Chair calls for nominations for President Pro Tempore of the City Council and Mr. Wexler nominates Edward P. Quigley and this nomination is seconded by Messrs. Cahill and 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 Clerk be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Quigley as President Pro Tempore of the City Council.

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

The Chair thereupon declares Edward P. Quigley duly elected President Pro Tempore of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1955.

D. Everett Whelan
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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 be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Luongo as President of the City Council.

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

The Chair thereupon declares Thomas S. Luongo duly elected President of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1955.

D. Everett Whelan
D. EVERETT WHELAN,
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IN CITY COUNCIL
January 5, 1953

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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 be directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Quigley as President Pro Tempore of the City Council.

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

The Chair thereupon declares Edward P. Quigley duly elected President Pro Tempore of the City Council for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1955.

D. Everett Whelan
D. EVERETT WHELAN,
CITY CLERK.



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

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CITY HALL

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

IN CITY COUNCIL
January 5, 1955

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 Messrs. Matera and Ferreira.

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

First Deputy City Clerk, Vincent Vespia casts one ballot for Mr. Whelan as directed.

The Chair thereupon declares D. Everett Whelan duly elected City Clerk for the ensuing term of two years ending on the first Monday in January, 1955.

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

D. Everett Whelan
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 5th *day of* January, *A. D. 19* 53,

I did administer unto D. Everett Whelan

duly appointed to the office of

City Clerk

the above subscribed oath.

Walter H. Reynolds



CITY OF PROVIDENCE • RHODE ISLAND • Walter H. Reynolds • Mayor

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

CITY HALL
January 5, 1953

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

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:rmc

IN CITY COUNCIL
JAN 5 - 1953

RECORDED:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECORDED.

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

or

I, Walter H. Reynolds, Mayor

do hereby certify that on the 5th day of January, A. D. 19 53,

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 5th *day of* January, A. D. 1953,

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
THE HONORABLE WALTER H. REYNOLDS

January 5, 1952

To the Honorable the City Council of the City of Providence:

On November the 4th, 1952, the voters of the City of Providence endorsed the record of this administration and entrusted to us the conduct of the government of this City for the next two years.

I choose this method of commencing my address because I am first of all impressed with the fact that the people of this city have tendered to us the honor of their confidence. It behooves us today as the first utterance of this 1953-1954 term to resolve humbly that this confidence shall be our most prized possession, and that it shall not be violated or betrayed.

The forthcoming term, as I see it, must become primarily a period of consolidation rather than of innovation. We must harvest for this City those physical and other benefits for which we have planned and which we so urgently require.

We must meet and solve successfully those administrative and other problems which have been pressing upon us so demandingly.

Generally, and broadly speaking, we face this task with certain undeniable assets. We have a sound program of physical developments. In many cases projects are ready for execution. We have a high quality of operating personnel in our various departments, many of whom are nationally recognized technicians in their particular fields. We have a sound and integrated system of fiscal operation in our budgetary and accounting procedures. We have a body of experience upon which to draw in connection with opportunities offered us and the problems besetting us. Last, but by no means least, we have in our task the affirmative encouragement of the people of Providence.

We must first continue our efforts to make Providence a better city in which to live and in which to make a living. Two years ago at this time, I expressed my concern with the population decline which was then apparent from recent census data. That decline I believe to be continuing, although more recent figures are not available to gauge the proportions of this movement.

Some out-migration is probably inevitable. A concentrated urban area cannot expect to provide a suburban environment. I believe, however, that we can do much to stem this trend by proper development and use of the City's natural advantages and conveniences.

Many of the measures to this end which I have in mind are already underway or about to be commenced. Only last month I had the privilege of accepting on behalf of your city the completed and final station in our fire modernization program. We now have under construction the new Fox Point Elementary School. The Redevelopment Agency, the operations of which were cleared by a Supreme Court Decision in its favor a few months ago, is currently, with the approval of your Honorable Body, studying a Willard Avenue Project to clear depreciated housing and create a site for a second new elementary school. The Agency will continue its valuable work in the effort to eradicate blighted residences in Providence. Likewise, under construction are some 1100 additional units of public housing at Hartford Park and Manton Heights. The addition to our central library, temporarily delayed by the steel crisis, should be available for use by September, 1953.

We have recently acquired a new playground at Sackett Street. We have on the drawing boards plans for the first of two additional swimming pools and recreation buildings similar to those in use at Prairie Avenue and Knight Street.

Within recent months I have directed the City Plan Commission to prepare an over-all plan of playgrounds and playfields to which we may key subsequent recreational developments. We are studying ways and means of completely modernizing our sewage pumping station and treatment plant.

You gentlemen of this council will today find on your desks for your consideration a resolution authorizing the city to engage expert study of our power requirements for this facility. We are all aware of the fact that, by reason of age, obsolescence, and the increased amounts of sewage now being received, our present treatment plant is unsuited to present needs. The remedy for this condition will entail substantial and costly construction which must be undertaken as soon as plans can be prepared. The power study recommended is the first necessary step toward preparation of such plans. Continued plant studies and examination of types and sources of industrial discharges will also be required to furnish the basic information for design purposes.

All of these measures, present and future, which I have here outlined are calculated as constructive steps toward making Providence a safer, healthier, more convenient city in which to live. I know that is your wish as well as mine.

I am not, however, concerned solely with the residential aspects of our physical environment. It is essential also that the proper climate for business and industry be created and maintained. To induce additional prosperity for our already active port facilities, we now have in operation the newest and finest transit shed in New England at our municipal wharf. We have completed the Dennis J. Roberts Expressway at Olneyville. We are actively working with the State of Rhode Island on a north-south freeway through Providence, the first stage of which across the Providence River, will soon be ready for construction drawings. With the cooperation of this City Council it is my intention to get started in the next few months with the first of our off-street parking garages in the downtown area.

Through these and other measures including improvement of surface streets, one-way streets, clearance of blighted housing for commercial and industrial uses, we shall do all within the scope of our powers and abilities to make it easier within the City of Providence to move goods and persons and generally to conduct business and manufacturing with a maximum of convenience and economy.

It will be evident from the foregoing that it is these things to which I referred in connection with the harvesting of anticipated benefits. None *is a new idea.* of these are new ideas. As I see this present term, it is our principal policy to see that these various measures, urgently required and approved by the people of this city, are made available for their benefit.

The present term, however, will not be a mere process of underwriting a series of public works. We are faced with significant administrative and other problems. Many of these cannot be described simply as administrative problems. They are related also to what I have called the environment for living and doing business in our city.

First and foremost on any such list of problems must come the matter of the public schools. On the occasion of my first inaugural two years ago, I proposed an objective study of our school system and its finances. Subsequently, with the consent of this Council, the Griffenhagen study was completed. While this provided us with a great deal of factual material, it did not provide a definitive answer to our principal problem in school affairs, namely, the division of authority and responsibility in financial matters. I am proposing at this time no further study. Rather, it is my intention to work out with the responsible authorities, a solution, or solutions, which I shall recommend for your approval for submission to the General Assembly in its next term.

Subsequently, I shall probably request your authorization of a special election to carry this important matter to the people for their vote.

Similarly, a problem of employee classification and pay scales faces us in our present term. Our original classification plan was prepared almost ten years ago. That ^{decade}~~ten years~~ has been one of intensive economic and social changes.

These changes, together with past percentage increases in compensation adopted over recent years have tended to make our classification obsolete in several respects. Job descriptions today do not always fit precisely the jobs which they purport to describe. In many cases, there is insufficient distinction between positions of differing responsibility. For these various reasons the outgoing Council in December authorized me to engage competent consulting advice for the purpose of modernizing our classification plan. With the revised classification plan there must be prepared also a new pay plan, which will encourage and retain present capable employees and permit the recruitment of able replacements where vacancies occur.

Two other matters relating to organization and to other facets of living in the City of Providence must likewise concern us in the coming two years. I refer to the Building Code and the possibility of a Housing Code.

Our proposed building code has been under intensive study by a number of affected groups in the Community, and within a short time should be adequately prepared for the legislative attention of your Honorable Body.

It is my conviction that this code, which is a modern performance-type code, will increase flexibility in construction methods, maintain a high degree of public safety and encourage new building in our city.

So far as a Housing Code is concerned, I am less prepared to be definite. Such a code is concerned with the preservation of the public health and welfare through the elimination or rehabilitation of fire hazards in residential areas, the upgrading of blighted areas and the stabilization of living values and economic values in better areas. Much exploratory work must be done on this matter before specific recommendations can be placed at your disposal. Before determining such recommendations, it will be my task to seek advice from real estate, banking, labor and other interested groups in this City.

Another matter concerning which I can be even less specific is the matter of charter reform. It is my intention to request the City Solicitor to undertake a study of this matter, to seek advice where he deems it necessary, and to make a report thereon. Whether this will result in legislative proposals will depend upon the merits of the proposition as it is eventually reported upon and debated by various interested persons and organizations, including your own body.

Also, and this is not actually a matter of organization, it is my intention to undertake, with the approval of you Honorable Gentlemen, a coordinated program of public reporting. I shall shortly place before you a draft ordinance to appropriate sufficient funds to make possible an attractive and informative report on an annual basis for distribution to the people of this City. In addition to the written form, I have in mind the possibility of other media for bringing to the citizen the full story of what his government does for him.

In weighing the foregoing discussion, I am only too conscious that I have omitted a number of important elements in the picture as I see it for the next two years.

In public safety it is my intention, and I know it is yours, to work diligently to maintain and improve our present fine standing in fire prevention, crime prevention and detection and in traffic safety. We shall have for our consideration at an early date an objective and detailed report on our Police Department. This report may provide the basis for still further improvements in this Department.

In Public Works we have in operation this fiscal year the cost accounting system which I recommended two years ago, and which through your cooperation has become a valuable tool in assuring efficiency and economy in public works management. The approval of the people having been secured, I shall request you in the near future for authorization of monies to construct a sanitation garage and a general municipal garage, to facilitate the operations of the Public Works and other departments having vehicle housing and maintenance problems. In traffic engineering we must continue our safety program and our program of maximum use of present traffic facilities. In the various other departments - parks, welfare, recreation and others - we must continue and improve upon the fine standards of service which have been ours to date.

I would close this address with some necessarily brief analysis of what we face on the financial side as we come to deal with the opportunities and the problems which I have outlined here today.

In relation to physical improvements, our chief problem is control of our debt structure. While our debt is already large, it has proved of manageable proportions.

I would, as would all of you, like to see it substantially reduced. I do not, however, see how that is possible in view of our many required civic projects. It should, nevertheless, be the task of all of us to insure that new debt is contracted no faster than old debt is retired. I believe it is entirely feasible to do this, and at the same time possess the advantages, economic and other advantages, which these improvements create. Our best guarantee that we accomplish this objective lies in careful budgeting for capital purposes.

It is on the operating side that our most difficult financial struggle will be faced. There can be no significantly large amounts saved from increased efficiency or new economy. While we shall continue every effort to effect such savings and economies, it must be realized that we are already at a relatively high level of efficiency and under the exercise of stringent economy. As many businesses and industries well know, it is difficult, if not impossible, to reduce or eliminate services. As all of us know, the cost of material and labor is still far from stable. Increased employee compensation alone will doubtless require a substantial amount. Need for some additional funds has been forecast by the School Committee.

Whatever reorganization or other changes are effected in this Department, minimum school needs must be faced realistically. I have no means at my disposal at this time to determine with any degree of precision what these factors, and others, will require financially in the years ahead.

No one wishes to see taxes increased. Nevertheless, to finance even the modest program I have described, it will obviously be necessary to secure some additional revenue. At the present time there is a difference of one dollar and sixty cents per thousand between our current real property tax rate and the maximum rate permissible under state law. I shall recommend shortly that the rate be increased by at least some part of the one dollar and sixty cents per thousand. We shall need in addition to make a careful canvass of all revenue sources. Among the possibilities is that of some new revenue from revised fees and licenses. Assessed valuations also will need to be examined. It seems significant that, despite increases in the selling price of land, assessed valuations on land in the City of Providence total a lesser amount in 1952 than in the late 1920's.

When our needs are known, and we have explored our revenue resources, I will have further recommendations to place before you. In this and other matters please be assured that I wish to cooperate with and receive the advice of your Honorable Council in every way for the betterment of the City of Providence.

The times do not grow easier. It is incumbent upon us -- all of us -- to face them courageously, determined to do the right as we see it, fearlessly, without favor to any, and with the help of Almighty God, with justice to all.

IN CITY COUNCIL
JAN 5 1953
READ:

CLERK