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CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
RHODE ISLAND



CITY COUNCIL

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 107 City Council Special Meeting, Friday, July 15, 1994, 5:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.)

PRESIDING

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

JAMES A. PETROSINELLI

IN CITY COUNCIL

OCT 6 1994

READ AND APPROVED

*Michael R. Clement* CLERK

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, DeLuca, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fargnoli, Councilmen Fenton, Glavin, Igliozi, Lombardi, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and Young-15.

Absent: None.

## INVOCATION

The Invocation is given by COUNCIL-  
WOMAN RITA M. WILLIAMS.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNCILMAN ROBERT M. CLARKIN  
leads the members of the City Council and  
the Assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance  
to the Flag of the United States of America.

## CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT JAMES A. PETROSINELLI

July 12, 1994 Meeting of the City Council on Friday, the 15th  
day of July, 1994 at 5:00 o'clock P.M.

Honorable Michael R. Clement  
City Clerk  
City Hall  
Providence, RI 02903

The purpose of said meeting is for the City  
Council to consider the following matters, viz:

Dear Mr. Clement:

In accordance with the Provisions of Section  
406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980,  
I respectfully request that you call a Special

An Ordinance Providing for the Assessment  
and Collection of 1994 Taxes in a sum not less  
than One Hundred Fifty Nine Million Eight  
Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred  
Dollars (\$159,858,900) and not more than One  
Hundred Seventy Eight Million Five Hundred  
Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars

(\$178,565,800) being based on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the 1994-1995 Fiscal Year Tax Collections.

An Ordinance Making an Appropriation of Three Hundred Nine Million, Four Hundred Eighty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety Dollars (\$309,484,990) for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1995, as Amended.

An Ordinance Establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-23 Approved July 30, 1993, as Amended.

An Ordinance Establishing the Classes of

Positions, the Maximum Number of Employees and the Number of Employees in Certain Classes in the City Departments and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-24, Approved July 30, 1993, as Amended.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. PETROSINELLI  
Council President

Received.

## FROM THE CITY CLERK

The City Clerk reads the following Warrant with the City Sergeant's Return endorsed thereon, certifying that he did notify the Members of the City Council of the Special Meeting to be held Friday, July 15, 1994, at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) by Personally Delivering a Copy of the Warrant on July 13, 1994.

July 12, 1994

TO RALPH GUGLIELMINO,  
CITY SERGEANT:

Whereas, Council President James A. Petrosinelli has, pursuant to Section 406 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, requested the City Clerk, in writing, to Call a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held on the 15th day of July A.D., 1994, at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) for the purpose of Enacting the following:

An Ordinance Providing for the Assessment and Collection of 1994 Taxes in a sum not less than One Hundred Fifty Nine Million Eight Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$159,858,900) and not more than One Hundred Seventy Eight Million Five Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$178,565,800) being based on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the 1994-1995 Fiscal Year Tax Collections.

An Ordinance Making an Appropriation of Three Hundred Nine Million, Four Hundred Eighty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety Dollars (\$309,484,990) for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1995, as Amended.

An Ordinance Establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-23 Approved July 30, 1993, as Amended.

An Ordinance Establishing the Classes of Positions, the Maximum Number of Employees and the Number of Employees in Certain Classes in the City Departments and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-24, Approved July 30, 1993, as Amended.

MICHAEL R. CLEMENT  
*City Clerk*

July 12, 1994

You are therefore, hereby commanded and required to summon each Member of the City Council to that Special Meeting, as Called.

*Hereof, Fail Not, and make true return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon.*

Given under my Hand and Official Seal of the City of Providence, State of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantations this 12th Day of July, A.D., 1994.

I, Ralph Guglielmino, City Sergeant, do hereby certify that I have notified each Member of the City Council of the Special Meeting scheduled to be held on Friday, July 15, 1994 at 5:00 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.) in the Chamber of the City Council, City Hall, Providence, in accordance with the subject warrant by delivering to each member, a copy thereof.

RALPH P. GUGLIELMINO  
*City Sergeant*

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE

### COUNCILMAN DAVID G. DILLON, Chairman COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**Transmits the following with Recommendation the Same be Adopted:**

An Ordinance Providing for the Assessment and Collection of 1994 Taxes in a sum not less than One Hundred Fifty Nine Million Eight Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$159,858,900) and not more than One Hundred Seventy Eight Million Five Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$178,565,800) being based on One Hundred Percent (100%) of the 1994-1995 Fiscal Year Tax Collections.

**Transmits the following with Recommendation the Same be Adopted as Amended:**

An Ordinance Making an Appropriation of Three Hundred Ten Million, Six Hundred Seventeen Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$310,617,990.00) for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1995, as Amended.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN moves the Ordinances be Read and Passed, the First Time, as Amended on a Roll Call Vote.

This motion is seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI.

COUNCILMAN DILLON moves that the Appropriation Ordinance be Amended.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN refers to the Rules of the City Council which clearly states that once the Roll Call has begun it shall not be interrupted for any reason and requests an opinion from the City Solicitor.

CITY SOLICITOR MANSOLILLO agrees with Majority Leader Glavin but informs that the President inadvertently said the same so the Chair may be challenged as to whether or not the Council desires to hear from Councilman Dillon.

## PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN requests the privilege of the Floor to Speak on a Point of Personal Privilege and states:

"In this day of deficits and budget cuts, we often cut or level fund programs because we feel they are not as important as providing valuable City and State Services such as police protection, fire prevention, snow removal, etc.

We look at Education, the Arts, Libraries and Parks and sometimes think the loss will be less than for instance, closing down a fire station or holding the line on salary and benefit increases.

The Finance Committee has done an outstanding job in reviewing the budget and making recommendations. One particular line item that I am strongly opposed to is the \$250,000 taken from the Zoo's Dinosaur receipts. I am pleased to see that the members of the Finance Committee

have spoken to Nancy Derrig and a compromise has been reached. There will be a 50 cents surcharge added to the gate receipts January 1st, 1995. 25 cents for debt service and 25 cents payable to the General Fund. It should be noted however, that in the past, two fiscal years \$187,053.00 has gone into the General Fund from the surcharge presently in place and \$828,448.00 has been paid to the PPBA to reduce the debt.

Some other facts you should know, the Roger Williams Park Zoo Budget is \$1,200,000.00 less than ½ of 1% of the City Budget. If we go ahead with the confiscation of the \$250,000.00 of Dinosaur money, the City will receive a total of \$350,000.00. This means that the Zoo will be returning \$350,000.00 to the City in return for the City's 1.2 million dollar allocation and a give back of nearly 30% of the entire City Zoo budget.

The Zoo Education Budget is privately financed

with only \$29,000.00 going for the salary of the coordinator and \$900.00 only from the City Budget, and as I have mentioned many times scholarships are given to inner City kids and they get a wonderful experience they would not ordinarily have.

I have also done some research and compared our Roger Willam Park with two other Zoos. Since lots of numbers have been thrown around in the last few weeks, I am giving this comparison of our Zoo to two other very different zoos: Bronx, because it is the best Zoo in the World and Rita Williams mentioned it is a way of criticizing our low fees and also the Riverbanks Zoo which is located in Columbia, South Carolina.

#### **BRONX ZOO**

Yearly Budget — 29 Million Dollars

450 Full time employees

100 Part time employees

500 Summer employees

Yearly Allocation for Capital Improvements — \$11,500,000.00

#### **RIVERBANKS ZOO**

Riverbanks, Columbia South Carolina, is a Zoo of the same acreage and roughly the same yearly attendance. The Columbia Metro Area is 475,000 people compared to the Providence Metro Area of 450,000 people.

Yearly Budget — \$3,000,000

98 Full Time Employees

74 Part Time Employees

Yearly Allocation General Obligation Bonds \$6,000,000

#### **ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO**

Yearly Budget — 1.1 Million Dollars (current year)

34 Full time employees

2 Temporary employees

1 Workers Comp. Employee

No Part Time employees

No Seasonal employees

You can see from this comparison that even a Zoo of the same size and attendance have approximately triple or quadruple the staff. It has always been a source of great amazement to other Zoo Directors that we have such a tiny staff and have been able to accomplish so much. In addition, we have no exhibit staff, graphics staff, botanical staff or development staff. It has therefore been necessary for us to create an ad hoc Zoo Planning Committee which has assumed responsibility for all of these areas, something above and way beyond the call of duty. I know you are aware of the fact that many exhibits are built in house by our own zoo keepers wielding sledge hammers and laying cement. This is so that the money raised can be stretched far beyond what it could if private contractors were always hired.

I would suggest for next year that if the budget comes up with a gap the way it did this year, we pack up the whole thing and send it back downstairs to Administration and let them deal with it. Then we should take a hard look at other areas:

1. Any raises for unclassified workers should be listed by each department and no raises should be given unless a proper evaluation has been given.

2. All Union jobs should be looked into by the Union leaders and the Personnel Director and each Department should be carefully restructured.

3. And, even though I believe the Administration is currently negotiating with at least one Union, we need to stand firm on Union Contracts.

We have yet to see the 1033 one year contract which was recently negotiated. We should look at these things first and do something about them before we ever try to cut those departments that are doing a good job."

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE

The Clerk reads COUNCILMAN DILLON'S amendment as follows:

To decrease the Line Item GENERAL DEPARTMENTS by \$250,000 to be \$14,652,652.00 to increase Line Item TRANSFER FROM SPECIAL REVENUES from \$200,000.00 to be \$500,000.00 and to increase the Line Item PROPERTY TAXES from \$50,000.00 to be \$163,207,371.00.

This motion being seconded by COUNCILMAN GLAVIN is Put to Vote and Passed by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Ayes:** Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fargnoli, Councilmen Glavin, Igliozi, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and Young—12.

**Noes:** Councilmen DeLuca, Fenton and Lombardi—3.

**Absent:** None.

The motion to amend, is Sustained.

COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS moves to amend the Appropriation Ordinance by adding \$250,000 to the Providence Public Library out of the combined figure of \$864,600.00 of Miscellaneous in each departments budget and the Finance Director can determine how much is subtracted from each department based on the needs of the Department.

This motion is seconded by COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN.

COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS reconsiders her motion and withdraws same at this time.

COUNCILWOMAN NOLAN withdraws her second.

The Clerk is directed to Call the Roll on the foregoing Ordinances, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI, the Ordinances are Severally Read and Collectively Passed, the First Time, as Amended:

**Ayes:** Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fargnoli, Councilmen Fenton,

Glavin, Iglizzo, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan, Councilman Rollins, Councilwomen Williams and Young—13.

Noes: Councilmen DeLuca and Lombardi—2.

Absent: None.

COUNCILMAN DeLUCA, COUNCILMAN FENTON, COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI, COUNCILWOMAN WILLIAMS and COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG desire to be recorded as voting "No" relative to "An Ordinance Making an Appropriation of Three Hundred Ten Million, Six Hundred Seventeen Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$310,617,990.00) for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1995, as Amended.

Recapitulation of Vote:

Ayes: 10.

Noes: 5.

The motion for Passage the First Time, as Amended, is Sustained.

An Ordinance Establishing a Compensation Plan for the City of Providence and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-23, Approved July 30, 1993, as Amended.

An Ordinance Establishing the Classes of Positions, the Maximum Number of Employees and the Number of Employees in Certain Classes in the City Departments and Repealing Ordinance Chapter 1993-24, Approved July 30, 1993, as Amended.

COUNCILMAN DILLON moves the Ordinance

be Severally Read and Collectively Passed, the First Time, as Amended.

This motion is seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI.

COUNCILMAN CLARKIN moves that the Classification Ordinance be Amended on Page 5, Section 18 by deleting 21 Fire Medics from the Fire Department for a Total Manpower of 567.

This motion being seconded by COUNCILWOMAN YOUNG is Put to Vote and Passed by a Voice Vote.

COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI moves to amend the Compensation Ordinance by deleting on Page 3, Associate Director Special Projects \$40,000-\$50,000 and delete this from the Classification Ordinance under Section 53 entitled Planning and Development Page 13, 1 Associate Director of Special Projects making the total 121 instead of 122.

This motion is seconded by COUNCILMAN MANCINI.

The Clerk is directed to Call the Roll relative to the Compensation Ordinance.

Ayes: Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fagnoli, Councilman Iglizzo, Councilwoman Nolan and Councilman Rollins—8.

Noes: Councilmen DeLuca, Fenton, Glavin, Lombardi, Mancini, Councilwomen Williams and Young—7.

Absent: None.

The motion for Passage of the Compensation Ordinance, for the First Time, as Amended, is Sustained.

The Clerk is directed to Call the Roll relative to COUNCILMAN LOMBARDI'S motion and COUNCILMAN MANCINI'S second to delete the position of "Associate Director Special Projects" from both Ordinances:

**Ayes:** Council President Petrosinelli, Councilman Clarkin, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fagnoli, Councilmen Fenton, Glavin, Igliazzi, Lombardi, Mancini, Rollins and Councilwoman Young—11.

**Noes:** Councilman DeLuca, Dillon, Councilwomen Nolan and Williams—4.

**Absent:** None.

The motion to Delete the Position from the Compensation and Classification Ordinances, is Sustained.

The Clerk is Directed to Call the Roll relative to the Classification Ordinance:

**Ayes:** Council President Petrosinelli, Councilmen Clarkin, Dillon, Councilwomen DiRuzzo, Fagnoli, Councilmen Glavin, Igliazzi, Mancini, Councilwoman Nolan and Councilman Rollins—10.

**Noes:** Councilmen DeLuca, Fenton, Lombardi, Councilwomen Williams and Young—5.

**Absent:** None.

The motion for Passage of the Classification Ordinance for the First Time, as Amended, is Sustained.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of COUNCILMAN GLAVIN, seconded by COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI, it is voted to adjourn at 7:30 o'clock P.M. (E.D.T.).

*Michael R. Clement*

City Clerk



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