



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

Office of the Public Service Engineer

Peter J. Hicks, Jr.
Public Service Engineer

112 Union St. Providence 3, R. I.

July 8, 1958

Mr. D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Whelan:

I enclose herewith the bill of the Narragansett Electric Company for the Street Lighting of the City of Providence for the month of June, 1958.

The total net amount of the bill is \$41,416.31.

Yours very truly,

Peter J. Hicks, Jr.
PETER J. HICKS, JR.
PUBLIC SERVICE ENGINEER

PJH, JR/pc
Enc.

IN CITY COUNCIL

AUG 7 - 1958

APPROVED:

D. Everett Whelan
CLERK

Sent to Controller 8/11/58

FILED

JUL 10 10 32 AM '58

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
PROVIDENCE, R. I.

BUDGET MESSAGE TO BE DELIVERED BY MAYOR WALTER H. REYNOLDS ON
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1958

TO THE HONORABLE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE

GENTLEMEN:

In accordance with Section 108 of the Charter of the City of Providence,

I am presenting herewith a budget for the fiscal year 195⁸~~7~~-1959. *Dev.*

Anticipated revenues total \$36,928,473. Proposed expenditures amount
to \$36,888,118, leaving an estimated net surplus of \$40,355. Compared with the
current fiscal year this budget envisions increases of \$714,947 in receipts and
\$726,573 in expenditures.

On May 15, 1958 I addressed a communication to the Honorable City
Council offering certain recommendations with reference to expenditures for school
purposes, and reviewing generally our financial prospects for the forthcoming year.

I would like to quote briefly from that letter as follows:

"I do not see how we can ask the home-owners, at least one in ten of
whom may be out of work through no fault of his own, to pay additional taxes....."

"I do not believe that business either, can support a tax increase at this time. This is the problem which we are facing....."

This was the situation in May of this year. Our situation now is little different, except that with the passage of time our problems have become more apparent. I believe we did the right thing when we decided against seeking a tax increase against real and personal property. I believe too that the majority of our citizens, many of whom are adversely affected by a recession, national in scope, will be grateful for your action.

It is my duty, however, to make it perfectly clear both to this Council and to our citizens, precisely what our present circumstances are. I noted a few moments ago that this budget anticipates an increase in receipts amount to \$714,947. To make this increase available to meet necessary increases in certain appropriations, I must recommend that we do the following:

- (1.) Appropriate \$300,000 from the Reserve for Extraordinary Expenditures as was done for the current year.

(2.) Transfer and appropriate from the Public Works Equipment Revolving

funds \$125,000 of monies accumulated for the purchase of new

equipment, and

(3.) With authorization of the Commissioners of Sinking Funds, transfer

\$355,000 from the Fund for Redemption of City Debt and appropriate

same for payment of debt falling due next year.

These items total \$780,000 and in recommending them I recognize, as I am sure you Gentlemen do also, that we are in a considerable way borrowing against the future. Appropriation from the Reserve in effect postpones capital improvements from current revenue which in the long run is by far the most economical way to make such improvements. The sum taken from Public Works Revolving accounts will, in the course of time need to be replaced in order to purchase new equipment in future years.

The authorized transfer from the Fund for the Redemption of City Debt uses a portion of this fund acquired through an active program of sales of un-needed city property.

This fund, therefore, will not need to be restored, but rather represents a very timely "cushion" for our needs.

It is far from my mind, Gentlemen, to present the foregoing as a situation without promise for the future. With reference to the Mayor's Committee on Municipal Revenue I also wrote to you on May 15, 1958 (and I quote) "I believe this Committee is doing a thorough and painstaking job. Through this Committee's efforts, and subsequently through our own efforts when the report becomes available, I am confident we can and we will secure the additional revenue needed.....upon a basis which will be equitable to all without an undue proportion of the tax burden falling upon the property owner."

As this message is being prepared, I am advised that a complete first draft of a Committee report is to be reviewed by the Committee within a matter of days. The importance of this Committee's work is emphasized by other aspects of our proposed budget for fiscal year 1958-1959.

Our estimated property tax collection for next year based upon the assessment of December 31, 1957 will be down by approximately \$65,000, the principal reason for which is a readjustment of the estimated percentage of collections from 96.5 to a more realistic 96 percent.

It is estimated that State-Shared Taxes will decrease by \$155,000. These taxes include horse-racing receipts from which we anticipate we will receive \$90,000 less next year because of lesser track activity, and because, property valuations which are the basis of the distribution formula are increasing outside our corporate limits at a rate faster than within our corporate limits. Also included in State-Shared Taxes is the amount made available for general city purposes. Based upon the total amount of the tax levy in each community as a ratio of the total levy within the state, we can expect to receive from this source \$65,000 less than in the current budget estimate.

Other revenue items likewise show decreases anticipated in varying proportions:

- (1.) Business and Non-Business Licenses will be down \$12,000.
- (2.) Special assessments will be down \$177,000 of which a portion of the decrease must be discounted since \$137,000 appears in the current year's budget as a non-repetitive item.
- (3.) Fines will bring us \$10,000 less in the next fiscal year.

- (4.) Rents and Interest will bring us \$22,700 less, largely because of the decreased federal interest rate upon our investments of general fund cash not immediately required for city operation.
- (5.) Sewer Rentals will be some \$12,000 less reflecting again the business recession.

Only major categories of estimated receipts to show increases are the revenues of General Departments, up \$124,000 and Grants-in-Aid, up approximately \$633,000. Principal increase in departmental revenues is the \$93,000 increase in School receipts.

The principal increases in Grants-in-Aid are:

- (1.) A new grant of an additional \$200,000 for Chapin Hospital to reduce the deficit at that institution.
- (2.) \$128,000 of state money for aid to education - the same amount as last year, but last year's allocation was received too late to include in budget figures.
- (3.) An increased grant of \$303,000 constituting the 70 percent state share of the increased appropriations for General Public Assistance.

As you Gentlemen of the Council have no doubt expected, departmental expenditures have been reduced wherever possible. The appropriation for the Chapin Hospital has been reduced by \$175,000 for the purpose of further curtailing the anticipated deficit. Despite this saving, however, and despite an increase in state aid from \$200,000 to \$400,000, as well as legislative permission to charge for welfare patients, Chapin Hospital is, nevertheless, in the next fiscal year to cost Providence taxpayers approximately \$325,000 in deficit financing.

Public Works expenditures have been revised downward by \$116,000, largely by reducing by \$125,000 the appropriation for equipment rentals by the various divisions payable to the Public Works Equipment Revolving Funds. Again this is borrowing against the future, for these payments in the past have provided the basis for purchase^c of new equipment.

Other reductions in Public Works were necessary to meet the \$37,000 of new money to be required next year to operate the enlarged and modernized sewage treatment plant, \$19,000 street lighting bill resulting from new and more modern street lighting and \$22,000 for the operation of the Family Relocation Service.

I am recommending that the position of Family and Business Relocation Administrator (formerly Director) be made a full-time job. The recent 90-10 highway financing has expedited the State's freeway program and the expected volume of relocation work here, plus our own redevelopment relocations, require full-time attention to this important work. This service is being included in Public Works since it appears that an increasing share of this agency's time will be devoted to relocation in connection with highway projects.

Other and lesser reductions have been made in recommended appropriations:

- (1.) General Administration decreased by \$48,000.
- (2.) Finance Administration decreased by \$13,000.
- (3.) Public Safety decreased by \$23,000 primarily in departments other than Police and Fire.
- (4.) Recreation Activities decreased by \$51,000 of which \$31,000 is in divisions of the Park Department and the balance in the Recreation Dept.

Some increases were inevitable and little or no choice could be exercised in meeting these obligations. For example, debt service is up \$348,000, an increase which is the natural result of increased borrowing for schools, playgrounds, redevelopment and other aspects of the constructive capital improvement program which I have recommended from time to time and which you Gentlemen have endorsed. I would like to note parenthetically here that despite this program the net city debt, which was in excess of 50 million dollars in 1950, has been reduced since this administration took office to under 46 million.

Pensions are up \$29,000, the wage and salary increase of last year being primarily responsible for this. Actually this increase would have been considerably larger had not some diminution occurred in our obligations under the old pension system. Welfare costs are up some \$440,000 reflecting an estimated increase in average weekly costs from \$30,400 to \$36,000 for cash direct relief, and \$150,000 for increased hospitalization costs for welfare cases. Education costs are up approximately \$328,000 over last year, this amount being provided by an appropriation of \$107,000 in new city money, \$128,000 in State Grants-in-Aid which I mentioned earlier and \$93,000 in new school receipts which I have also referred to.

Miscellaneous activities are up a relatively small amount - a net \$19,000.

Included in recommended appropriations is \$40,000 for payment of pensions to unremarried widows of policemen and firemen in the old pension system. Also, I am recommending that the position of Director of Civilian Defense be made a full time position in the unclassified salary ordinance. In this position I would appoint a man with a sound background of army experience and a graduate of a military academy.

This, Gentlemen, is the picture in summary. I recognize that the proposed budget is inadequate except upon a one-year basis. We cannot long continue the practices proposed without serious losses in both quality and quantity of services to our citizens. New sources of revenue, perhaps some consolidation of functions on a state level, and a revised and more equitable tax base will be required to maintain the high standards of municipal administration to which the people of Providence are accustomed.

When the Revenue Committee has submitted its report I know it will be received by the members of this City Council with great interest and with an understanding of fiscal affairs derived from your long experience as members of the Council.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your patience, your kindness, and your cooperation. I look forward to your continued assistance in facing the many problems which confront us.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter H. Reynolds - Mayor of Providence

-X-

IN CITY COUNCIL
AUG 7 - 1958

READ: *By Mayor*

D. Everett W. ...
CLERK



D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

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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

July 15, 1958

Mr. D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of City Council Resolution No. 349, approved July 3, 1958, I hereby make the following appointments to the Special Committee on Columbus Day Celebration, 1958:

Councilman Edward F. Quigley
Councilman Hector D. Laudati
Councilman Henry E. Laliberte
Councilman Joseph F. Prete
Councilman Frank Lazarus

Very truly yours,

Angelo Aiello
President, City Council

AA:cel

IN CITY COUNCIL
AUG 7 - 1958

READ:
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.



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

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk

Vincent Vespia
First Deputy
William E. McWilliams
Second Deputy

July 15, 1958

Mr. D. Everett Whelan
City Clerk
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of City Council Resolution No. 350, approved July 3, 1958, I hereby make the following appointments to the Special Committee on Armistice Day Celebration, 1958:

Councilman Edward J. Loughran, Chairman
Councilman John F. Brock
Councilman John P. Gallogly
Councilman Robert J. McOsker
Councilman David Yanover

Very truly yours,

Angelo Aiello,
President, City Council

AA:cel

IN CITY COUNCIL
AUG 7 - 1958

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CLERK

Department of Public Parks

COMMISSIONERS

CHAS. B. MACKINNEY

CHAIRMAN

JOSEPH CASTRONOVO, M. D.

JOHN R. FLYNN

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

MARTIN F. NOONAN

SUPERINTENDENT

AND SECRETARY

July 10-1958

Mr. D. Everett Whelan,
City Clerk,
Providence, R. I.

Dear Mr Whelan,

With further reference to CC Resolution #278 dated
May 16-1958:

At a meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners held
yesterday afternoon, it was unanimously voted not to
abandon the section of Hopkins Park referred to -
namely approximately 6700 square feet fronting on
Hawkins Street within the area bounded by Charles
Street and Branch Avenue.

The Commissioners feel that the accomodation of 19
cars which would be provided by such a parking lot
could not possibly warrant abandoning a section of
this small park - one of the very few green areas,
and especially where it is a means of relaxation for
large numbers of our citizens in this thickly popu-
lated community.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Martin F. Noonan
Secretary

IN CITY COUNCIL
AUG 7 - 1958

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D. Everett Whelan
CLERK

FILED

JUN 14 9 18 AM '58

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
PROVIDENCE, R. I.**