

Patti

Finance Committee Meeting Monday, July 14, 2014

The Finance Committee met on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 7:02 p.m. in the council chambers at the Knisely Centre.

In attendance were committee members, Mrs. Ramos, alternate Winnie Walker and Chair Sandy Cox. Mr. Darrin Lautenschleger was excused.

Guests were Mayor Johnson, Auditor Beth Gundy, council member Rob Maurer, council president Sam Hitchcock, Clerk of Council Patti McKay, council member Dan Lanzer, Service Director Jim Zucal, Dan Rice, Eric Reip, Fire Chief Parrish, Treasurer Aaron Hillyer, Safety Director Greg Popham, Sandy Parrish, Mark Cox, WTUZ Nathan Cozart and Law Director Marvin Fete. The above guests were present for all or part of the meeting.

Item 1: A request from the Auditor to attend the Government Finance Officers Association conference September 17th and 18th.

The federal per diem rate is \$90 for the Sandusky area. The conference is being held at Kalahari Convention Center and the conference rate is \$129/night plus applicable taxes. The Auditor has the appropriations in her travel budget; she hasn't been to the GFOA conference in several years and would like to attend to see what is going on in other communities.

Chair Cox asked if there were any questions or comments. There being no questions or comments, Mrs. Ramos moved to approve the request and was seconded by Ms. Walker. The motion was passed unanimously with 3 ayes (Ramos, Walker and Cox)

Item 2: The Council President had assigned to the Finance Committee the proposal to reduce the credit for tax paid to other cities to 1%.

The only paperwork or information Council received on this item was from the Income Tax Administrator back in March 3, 2014.

Chair Cox - From that March 3, 2014 proposal this is, what I am conjecturing, what we are reviewing at this evening meeting.

1. To reduce the credit to 1% for New Philadelphia taxpayers who work outside of the city corporation limits.
2. There is an estimate that over 40% of our residents pay income tax to other cities.
3. Estimate generated income from reducing the tax credit to 1% is around \$500,000 to \$750,000 per year.
4. An ordinance to enact the reduction would have to be drafted and approved by City Council before this would go into effect.

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Ms. Cox asked if there was anyone in the administration who would like to speak on behalf of this request.

Auditor Gundy informed the committee that Mr. Day and his department did a good job putting that together. Ms. Baker took a look at April and it is about the same amount for additional revenue for that month. However we need to consider every month does not look like this and would have to look at each month to get a true picture. In my estimation it would not be \$1,000,000, it would be somewhere around \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Mayor Johnson said he was told when he first came in; there would be a million dollar deficit. I was told my task was to figure out how to fill it. I presented to Council a way to fill it. We don't have to go to the polls, we don't have to spend that expense and I don't believe this should be a permanent thing.

Mrs. Ramos said she has been sitting in on Council meetings for a year and a half now, including being a Council member. As you said Mayor, you have this responsibility to fill the deficit but there has been no talk or discussion of how to cut expenses, rather than you imposing an unvoted tax on the residents of our City. I am totally against imposing a tax on workers, especially when there has been no discussion on reducing expenses of the City.

Mayor – I would like to say, first of all Mrs. Ramos it is not your job to make cuts, it is our job. What did you estimate as our carry this year?

Auditor Gundy replied it looks like it will be around \$700,000.

Mayor – it could be more than what we predicted the first of the year.....

Auditor Gundy – said it was about \$500,000.

Mayor - so we are saving money and we have made cuts. Plus I have told you time and again to come into my office.

Mrs. Ramos – the reason why we are not saving money, if I understand the budget reports, the Income Tax Collection is up 3%. I know where we are over on the overtime in certain departments. So I haven't heard any discussion about saving money, positions have been filled; I believe new people have been hired and we are not cutting costs.

Treasurer Mr. Hillyer - I somewhat agree with Dave and I somewhat agree with Cheryl. The first thing I appreciate Joel's, Beth's and Dave's work for trying to come up with some solutions and this being one of them. I will also say I work in Dover and live in New Philadelphia. I probably could sprint to the corporate line in Philly in 15 seconds and to me I do not believe it would be fair to a New Philadelphia resident who works outside of New Philly to be charged 2%, while their neighbor who might have a job a 100 feet away and they are only getting charged 1 ½ % only because they work in the City. If you are going to raise the taxes on some people, you should raise the taxes on everybody.

Mr. Lanzer – I am really not in favor of raising taxes on anybody without voter's approval. That is taxation without representation.

Auditor Gundy – said the reason the carryover looks better is at the beginning of the year when we first did the budget, we did not have knowledge of any of the tax money that would normally go in to the Master Capital would go into there this year. So that is a big part of that change. The General Fund is receiving the money that would have been going into Master Capital.

Ms. Cox – reminded everyone the General Fund also is including the bed tax revenues.

Mayor – informed Mrs. Ramos to stop by and she could see how the City really works.

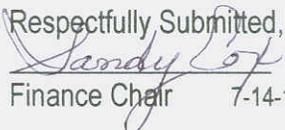
Ms. Cox – ended by saying she disagreed with the concept behind a tax credit reduction. I do not understand why we would be penalizing our citizens for living in our City but working outside of our City limit. It is a backdoor tax increase that singles out a group of New Philadelphia's taxpayers and places an extra burden only on them.

Ms. Cox asked the committee what they wanted to do, if they wanted to vote in committee or forward this item to Council floor.

Ms. Walker and Mrs. Ramos wanted to vote in committee.

Ms. Cox made a motion to accept the proposal (didn't want to make a negative motion) and Ms. Walker seconded the motion. Any questions, seeing none, Ms. Cox called for the vote and there were 3 nays and the proposal failed in committee. (Cox, Walker and Ramos)

Mrs. Ramos moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Finance Chair 7-14-14 MW



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