

# New Philadelphia City Council

## Finance Committee

### Meeting Notes

May 23, 2016 – 6:15 p.m.

**Present for all or portions of the meeting were the following:** committee chairman Darrin Lautenschleger and committee members Rob Maurer and John Zucal; committee alternate Dean Holland; Councilmembers Aimee May and Cheryl Ramos; Council President Sam Hitchcock; Clerk of Council Julie Courtright; Mayor Joel Day; Service Director Ron McAbier; Treasurer Tom Gerber; Auditor Beth Gundy; Safety Director Greg Popham; General Services Superintendent Ray Grewell; and city resident Don Kennedy.

**ITEMS:** Proposed Resolution 27-2016, Proposed Resolution 28-2016 and Proposed Resolution 29-2016.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS 27-2016 and 28-2016:** Chairman Lautenschleger reminded committee members that these two pieces of legislation authorize the purchases of a new plow/dump truck and sanitation truck, which have been included in the 2016 budget. Mr. Grewell informed the committee that the trucks are needed as the newest sanitation truck is a 2012 model and the newest plow/dump truck is a 1998 model. Mr. Holland suggested that the city needs to develop and follow a vehicle replacement plan. Mr. McAbier said that the trucks are needed and necessary in order to deliver routine services, and that he also believes a vehicle replacement plan is a necessity.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Mr. Maurer, seconded by Mr. Zucal, the committee voted 3-0 to recommend that Proposed Resolution 27-2016 and Proposed Resolution 28-2016 be added to the agenda for first reading at tonight's (May 23) regular session of Council, and that both resolutions be approved on third reading.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION 29-2016:** Chairman Lautenschleger said that this piece of legislation, which provides for City Council's approval of the tentative contract agreement with the AFSCME Clerical Union, was assigned to the Finance Committee on Sunday night, May 22. A deadline for Council to act on the legislation is June 3, based on the timing of the tentative contract agreement and ratification by the union. Chairman Lautenschleger expressed his disappointment and frustration that this is now the third contract that prompted near immediate action without the benefit of much public discussion, nor the ability for any public input in the process. In addition, he said this committee meeting only has a few minutes remaining in it so it will not provide a proper forum to fully discuss any concerns for feedback from the proper administration staff member(s).

Mr. Zucal stated that the timing of presentation of the legislation to Council members is hindering the ability of all Council members to review the materials and enable any public discussion of the legislation and contracts themselves.

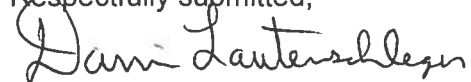
Mrs. Ramos stated that she believes strongly that city employees should participate to a greater extent by paying a larger share of their healthcare insurance premiums, any incentive retirement programs and that other options for shifting some of the burden of providing these benefits and compensation packages off of the taxpayers should be considered for review.

Auditor Gundy said that she has reviewed the potential wage increases of all four bargaining unit contracts for 2016 (Police, Firefighters and the two AFSCME unions), and these proposed increases will not have an overall negative effect on the budget because the estimated expenses are anticipated to be higher than what will actually be spent, and the wage increases will be covered through the estimated expenses.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Chairman Lautenschleger, seconded by Mr. Maurer, the committee voted 3-0 to recommend the addition of Proposed Resolution 29-2016 to the agenda for first reading at tonight's (May 23) regular session of Council, that the rules be suspended and that Proposed Resolution 29-2016 be approved on first reading.

With no further business to be discussed by the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrin Lautenschleger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Darrin Lautenschleger  
Chairman