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February 24, 2010

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on February 24, 2010, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen William White, Bruce Desmond and John Connolly also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen William Roche, Walter Pero, Dennis Sullivan and Thomas Taylor, Assistant City Solicitor Robert Collins, Director of Finance Ed Bean, Environmental Programs Manager David Lutes and Mark Levey from the Assessor's Office.

188744 - transfer \$10,353 for a buyback for a retired employee:

Mr. Bean provided information relative to this request.

188747 - expend a grant of \$651,100 to fund energy conservation programming:

Mr. Lutes discussed the grant, noting that it came from the federal stimulus package. Chairman Heuston requested a more detail explanation of how the funds would be spent and Alderman Connolly suggested that Mr. Lutes return to the Board of Aldermen on a quarterly basis to provide updates on how the funds are being utilized. Mr. Lutes will return to the next meeting of the committee to present more detailed information on this program.

188809 - use of available funds in the Somerstat Salaries Acct. to establish a part-time ResiStat Coordinator, and

188810 - transfer of funds within Somerstat for a part-time intern:

The committee discussed the need to fill these positions.

188811 - retention of Lynch Desimone and Nysten as outside legal counsel:

Alderman White inquired about a cost/benefit analysis for hiring an outside firm to represent the city. Mr. Levey responded by saying that his fee is \$325.00 per hour and that he is only used on special cases.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 5 items:

188744: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$10,353 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Inspectional Services Sick Leave Buyback Acct., for a buyback for a retired ISD employee.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188747: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$651,100 from the US DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, to fund energy conservation programming.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188809: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the use of \$9,693 in available funds in the Somerstat Salaries Acct. to establish a part-time ResiStat Coordinator, effective 3/1/10.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188810: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the transfer of \$4,900 in the Somerstat Dept., from the Salaries Acct. to the Neighborhood Improvement Council Acct., for a part-time intern.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

188811: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the retention of Lynch Desimone and Nylen as outside legal counsel, to defend values at the Appellate Tax Board for the Board of Assessors.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance