

MINUTES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 25, 2007 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.

Chairman Don Earley called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll call found Aldermen Pineda, Kwasman, Dimas, Murphy and Kauth present. Alderman Chassee was absent.

Also in attendance were City Administrator Michael Guttman, Administrative Services Director Linda Martin and Administrative Secretary Arlene Fisher.

2. Approval of Minutes.

A. Finance Committee - December 12, 2006. Alderman Kauth moved and Alderman Dimas seconded a motion to approve the minutes without any changes. Voting Yea: Aldermen Kauth, Dimas, Pineda, Murphy and Kwasman. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

3. Public Participation. Chairman Don Earley stated that at the end of Regular Session, the Committee would go into Executive Session.

4. Items for Consent.

A. Professional Audit Service. Alderman Kwasman asked the Chairman to explain any conflict of interest between the Police Pension and Lauterbach and Amen. The Chairman said that there was no conflict, in that bookkeepers at Lauterbach and Amen are kept separate from their auditors. He said he would suggest to the Police Pension, as they pay at their own expense, that it would be a good idea to hire an independent auditor.

Alderman Pineda moved and Alderman Murphy seconded a motion to recommend approval of Ordinance No. 07-O-0014 – Professional Audit Services Agreement Between the City of West Chicago and Lauterbach & Amen, LLP. The contract would extend for four years, with a first year payout in the amount of \$37,000.00. Voting Yea: Aldermen Pineda, Murphy, Kauth, Dimas and Kwasman. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

B. Property Tax Abatements.

Alderman Kauth moved and Alderman Dimas seconded a motion to recommend approval of Ordinance No. 07-O-0008 – Ordinance Abating the Taxes Hereto Levied for the Year 2006 to Pay the Principal of and Interest on \$2,290,000.00 General Obligation (Alternate Revenue) Refunding Bonds, Series 1998B, of the City of West Chicago for the Abatement of Taxes Levied in the Amount of \$260,702.50. Voting Yea: Aldermen Kauth, Dimas, Pineda, Kwasman and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

Alderman Murphy moved and Alderman Dimas seconded a motion to recommend approval of Ordinance No. 07-O-0009 – Ordinance Abating the Taxes Hereto Levied for the Year 2006 to Pay the Principal of and Interest on \$21,220,000.00 General Obligation (Waterworks System Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2002, of the City of West Chicago for the Abatement of Taxes Levied in the Amount of \$1,717,032.50. Voting Yea: Aldermen Murphy, Dimas, Pineda, Kauth and Kwasman. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

C. Budget Amendment No. 3. Alderman Kauth moved and Alderman Murphy seconded a motion to recommend approval of Ordinance No. 07-O-0001 – Amending the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year Commencing May 1, 2006 and Ending April 30, 2007, Passed and Adopted by Ordinance No. 06-O-0018 and Amended by Ordinance Nos. 06-O-0048 and 06-O-0094. Voting Yea: Aldermen Kauth, Murphy, Pineda, Dimas and Kwasman. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

D. Increase in Liquor License Fine. The Liquor Commissioner and Acting Mayor Michael Kwasman stated that the City was losing money in reference to collection of liquor license fines, as it had not been sufficient to cover attorney costs and staff costs associated with the violations. As a home-ruled community, the current Amendment should be revised to enable violators to plead guilty, therefore avoiding costs of a hearing and penalties associated with the number of violations as stated in the Liquor Control Act. If the violation were to be contested and a hearing process initiated, all costs associated with the violation would be in the hands of the Liquor Commission. Furthermore, violation fine amounts and reimbursement to the City for attorney fees would be provided for per Ordinance No.07-O-0010.

Alderman Kauth moved and Alderman Dimas seconded a motion to recommend approval of Ordinance No. 07-O-0010 – An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Chicago, Chapter 3, Section 3-33 (b) and (c) to Revise Fines for Liquor Violations and to Amend the Procedure for Payment of Fines in Lieu of Hearing. Voting Yea: Aldermen Kauth, Dimas, Pineda, Kwasman and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

5. Old Business. None

Approved 3/7/07

6. **New Business.** None

7. **Reports from Staff.**

8. **Executive Session.** At 7:10 P.M. the Chair entertained a motion to convene into Executive Session. Alderman Dimas moved and Alderman Murphy seconded a motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

9. **Items to be Referred for Final Committee Action from Executive Session.** None. Executive Session ended at 7:29 P.M. and Regular Session commenced.

10. **Adjournment.** Alderman Murphy moved and Alderman Kauth seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Fisher