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Finance Committee  
September 15, 2010

The Committee on Finance met on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 6pm.

The meeting was audio taped for the record.

Members present were Alderman L. Charles DiPerri, presiding, Aldermen Michael Marchese, Sal Sachetta, Councilors Daniel Napolitano, David Rodrigues, Cynthia Sarnie and Carlie Smith. Also present were non members Councilors Rosa DiFlorio and Peter Napolitano.

Member absent was Councilor Sergio Cornelio.

The Committee considered an Order offered by Councilor Rosa DiFlorio, as President: To raise and appropriate from the fiscal year 2011 tax levy, the sum of \$250,000.00 for the replacement and refurbishment of the City's fire hydrants.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Melissa Murphy was also present.

Ms. Murphy informed the Committee that the Mayor had requested that the matter be referred back to him since he would be utilizing a different funding source rather than appropriating from the fiscal year 2011 tax levy.

The Committee voted: To report back to the Common Council with a recommendation to refer back to sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees

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Member absent was Councilor Sergio Cornelio.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Peter Napolitano: That the City of Everett enact a moratorium to freeze all City of Everett employee salaries and hourly wages, at their existing levels for one year, and that the Mayor enter into negotiations with the various Unions for voluntary compliance with the moratorium..

Mayor's Chief of Staff Melissa Murphy, City Solicitor Colleen Mejia, Personnel Director Bob Joy, Superintendent of Schools Fred Foresteire, Assistant Superintendents Tom Stella and Charles Obremski and School Committee Member David Ela were also present.

Councilor Peter Napolitano began the meeting by announcing that a few other communities have done what he was proposing remarking that this is not something he wants to do but felt the City needed to hit the brakes somewhere on controlling spending. He asked Ms. Mejia how this could be done in the City of Everett. Ms. Mejia responded that she was not aware of this being done in any other community and noted that the City would need to meet individually with each union to negotiate which she stated would be a pretty involved process. Councilor Peter Napolitano informed Ms. Mejia that he had heard that this had been done by Mayor Rob Dolan in the City of Melrose. Councilor Peter Napolitano explained that many other communities were instituting employee furloughs, layoffs and salary reductions, but expressed concern that the City of Everett was moving along as if nothing was happening on financial front. Ms. Mejia responded stating that she believed the City was being prudent in its finances and that many non union employees have had there salaries frozen by the Mayor already. Councilor DJ Napolitano questioned who handled the negotiations with the school unions and Ms Mejia explained that it was handled by the School Committee. Mr. Foresteire provided the Committee with an overview of the contracts with the five school unions. Mr. Foresteire told the Committee that this proposal is not something they could legally do since they would need to sit and negotiate with each of the school unions. Councilor Rodrigues stated that he believed this to be two separate issues with one being a salary freeze issue and the other a union negotiating issue. Councilor Rodrigues asked Mr. Joy how many non union employees received salary increases. Mr. Joy informed the Committee that no non union employee received a salary increase but did acknowledge that a few employees were reclassified. Mr. Joy stated that on the Union side of the issue the City had already negotiated a contract with the City Unions two years ago. Councilor Peter Napolitano remarked that he believed that the City was hemorrhaging money and requested that the matter be referred to the Mayor to start a dialogue with the Unions.

The Committee voted: To report back to the Common Council with a recommendation to refer to the Mayor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees