

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**And**

**CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Budget and Finance**

**Thursday, January 21, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

**Present: Chair, Councilor Steven Curcuru, Vice Chair, Paul McGeary, Councilor Jacqueline Hardy**

**Absent: None.**

**Also Present: Councilor Ciolino, Councilor Theken, Councilor Mulcahey, Councilor Verga, David Bain, Marcia McInnis, Jim Duggan**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.**

**1. Discuss Resignation of City Auditor**

**Councilor Curcuru** stated that he received a letter this week regarding the resignation of Marcia McInnis, City Auditor, which he read into the minutes (a copy of this letter is on file). He said he appreciated Marcia's time here and wished her well.

**Councilor Hardy** said she's sorry to see Marcia go and hopes she remains in touch. She thanked her for her service to the City and hoped she will ensure a smooth transition by maintaining the integrity of the City's financial records in the final days of her tenure with the City

**Ms. McInnis** said retired Assistant City Auditor Barry Boyce would be a fine transitional choice. He knows and understands the City and the Council. This was an appropriate pause between auditing projects for her departure.

**Councilor McGeary** said Marcia has been very helpful to him as a new Councilor and asked that before her departure he hoped they would meet to go through the myriad of municipal financial layers.

**Councilor Ciolino** noted he was a part of the selection committee and said she'd done a great job and that she will be missed.

**Councilor Theken** said that like everyone else it had been a pleasure working with her and felt she was an asset to the City.

**Councilor Verga** noted that during his time on the School Committee Ms. McInnis helped to build bridges. She set the stage so that there is good cooperation between the City departments.

**Mr. Duggan** stated the Administration will support the transition in any way they can.

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor McGeary, the Budget and Finance Committee voted to accept the resignation of Marcia McInnis, City Auditor effective March 2, 2010.**

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor McGeary, the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to amend the main motion by inserting the word "regretfully" before the word "accept" into the motion.**

New main motion:

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy , seconded by Councilor McGeary, the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to regretfully accept the resignation of Marcia McInnis, City Auditor effective March 2, 2010.**

**David Bain**, Personnel Director, said Barry Boyce, a former City Assistant Auditor, now retired has come back twice as a temporary City Auditor to assist in the transition period while searching for a new City Auditor and is familiar with the office. At the request of the Budget & Finance Chair, Councilor Curcuru, he called Mr. Boyce. Mr. Boyce can give about 500 hours and at a rate of \$50.00 per hour and can start January 25<sup>th</sup>. This requires that the Budget and Finance Committee approval as well as the Council's.

**Councilor Hardy** asked since Ms. McInnis is still on the payroll, what Mr. Boyce's official title would be.

**Mr. Bain** responded it would be "Acting City Auditor" and it would take precedent over the Assistant City Auditor. While Ms. McInnis is still on the payroll, Mr. Boyce would sign as City Auditor and continue to sign in that capacity after her departure until the hiring of a new City Auditor or his approved temporary employee status of 500 hours expires. The 500 hours is the maximum time he can work for the City and is not entitled to any benefits since he receives his benefits through his City retirement. He noted he would be commuting from out of town.

**Councilor Hardy** said from her experience she knows that Mr. Boyce works well with Council and knows the City extremely well.

**Councilor Curcuru** agreed and Councilor McGeary deferred to their judgment.

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor McGeary, the Budget and Finance Committee voted unanimously 3 in favor, 0 opposed to appoint Barry Boyce as Acting City Auditor unanimously accepted.**

## **2. Other Business**

### **A. Snow and Ice Deficit**

**Councilor Curcuru** noted the motion has to be made to deficit spend.

**Mr. Duggan** said this is from guidance from Ms. McInnis. Last week it was \$183,000.00 and that's been increased since this past weekend. It was recommended by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council to not to exceed the additional \$900,000.00 for snow removal as an arbitrary number. If they don't go that high, it is to set a high bar. Last year the total was \$1.4 million in the end.

**Councilor Ciolino** and Councilor Curcuru said they can vote for increases in increments.

**Mr. Duggan** said this is so the Administration doesn't have to come back again. \$600,000.00 has already been expended, and they want to make sure there is enough appropriations. This is why the increase is from \$700,000.00 to \$900,000.00 in additional funds.

**Councilor Hardy** asked what does that do as there's no funding.

**Mr. Duggan** said there is no need for an appropriation to have the offset in place. They'll either take the deficit at the end of the snow season from different budgets or take from next year's recap. In addition, next year for the next budget, they'll take a one time hit for an increase from \$400,000.00 to "X" amount of dollars more. Then after that it will come out of the base budget.

**Ms. McInnis** said there are a few others that legally can be in deficit spending and are rare.

**Councilor McGeary** said we have to have budgeted at least the same amount as last year so once it goes up it could never go below \$600,000.00.

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor McGeary , the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 31D snow and ice removal, emergency expenditures, not to exceed an additional \$900,000.00.**

**MOTION: It was moved, seconded and voted UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 6:52 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dana Jorgensson**

**Clerk of Committees**