

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

-----X

April 22, 2009
Start: 12:03pm
Recess: 12:15pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DAVID I. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Tony Avella
- Council Member Charles Barron
- Council Member Gale A. Brewer
- Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Council Member Bill de Blasio
- Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
- Council Member James F. Gennaro
- Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
- Council Member Alan J. Gerson
- Council Member Eric N. Gioia
- Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
- Council Member Vincent Ignizio
- Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
- Council Member James S. Oddo
- Council Member Diana Reyna
- Council Member Helen Sears
- Council Member Albert Vann

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

None

1
2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: You're holding
3 us up. Okay. [pause] Good afternoon, and
4 welcome to today's Finance Committee hearing. My
5 name is David Weprin, I chair the Committee.
6 Today the Finance Committee will vote on three
7 items, two budget modifications and one
8 transparency resolution. Let's start first with
9 the two budget modifications. The first budget
10 modification is an expense modification, MN3.
11 This modification implements expense budget
12 appropriations, which were reflected in the City's
13 November and January financial plan modifications.
14 This modification also reallocates appropriations
15 that were reflected in the Fiscal Year 2009
16 adopted budget, to fund City Council local
17 initiatives. The fund transfer totals \$1.2
18 billion, but the net effect of this mod is zero.
19 The next budget modification is a revenue
20 modification, MN4, which reflects a \$136.8 million
21 decrease in the City's revenue, revenues.
22 Specifically the \$136.8 million reduction results
23 from forecasted decreases in tax collections of
24 \$724.4 million, and an \$85.3 million reduction in
25 unrestricted aid from New York State.

1

2

MALE VOICE: What about Finance, -

3

- .

4

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: These

5

reductions are offset by \$500 million in savings

6

in prior year payables and an increase of \$175.98

7

million from miscellaneous sources. The net

8

reduction of \$136.8 million in tax revenue will

9

reduce the City's general reserve by the same

10

amount. Keeping track of these amounts? There's

11

going to be a test later. Our last piece of

12

legislation relates to the adopted Fiscal 2008/209

13

expense budgets. In an effort to make the budget

14

process more transparent, this Committee will vote

15

on a Preconsidered Resolution approving the new

16

designation and our changes in the designation of

17

organizations receiving funding the Fiscal 2008

18

and Fiscal 2009 expense budgets. Specifically,

19

the Preconsidered Resolution makes technical

20

corrections to the list of organizations

21

designated to receive funding in the Fiscal 2008

22

expense budget, and approves new designations

23

and/or changes in the designation of certain

24

organizations receiving Council discretionary

25

funding, and funding pursuant to certain

1 initiatives in the Fiscal 2009 expense budget.
2 Council Members should have the list of these new
3 designations and changes, which is attached to the
4 Resolution. For clarification purposes, it is to
5 be noted that organizations appearing in the
6 Resolution that have not yet completed the
7 prequalification process conducted by the Mayor's
8 Office of Contract Services, or by the Council,
9 are identified in the attached charts with an
10 asterisk. Additionally, as with all transparency
11 resolutions, Council Members will have to sign a
12 disclosure form indicating whether or not a
13 conflict exists with any of the groups on the
14 attached list. If any Council Member has a
15 potential conflict of interest with any of the
16 organizations listed, he or she might want to
17 disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.
18 Members of Council Finance are available to answer
19 any questions you may have regarding the
20 transparency Resolution, and Noran Camp is
21 available to answer any questions you may have
22 regarding the conflict of interest disclosure
23 form. Stuart Klein from the Office of Management
24 and Budget is on hand to answer any questions you
25

1
2 may have regarding the two budget modifications.
3 Let me introduce my colleagues that are here. We
4 have Council Member Lew Fidler from Brooklyn,
5 Council Member Jim Oddo from Staten Island and
6 Brooklyn, Council Member Albert Vann from
7 Brooklyn, Council Member Helen Sears from Queens,
8 Council Member Gale Brewer from Manhattan, Council
9 Member Alan Gerson from Manhattan, Council Member
10 Jim Gennaro from Queens, Council Member Eric Gioia
11 from Queens. And Council Member Vincent Ignizio
12 from Staten Island. Is that, is that a quorum?
13 Pretty close.

14 FEMALE VOICE: Yep.

15 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Mr. Klein, do
16 you have any statement? No? Any questions for
17 Mr. Klein. Mr. Fidler.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I, I just
19 want to know whether or not Mr. Klein is willing
20 and ready to concede the rotisserie league
21 championship to the Tweedlers [phonetic]
22 [laughter].

23 STUART KLEIN: I never concede.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [laughs]
25 Yeah, that sounds like the Bloomberg

1

2 Administration. [laughs]

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Any less

important questions? [laughter] Seeing none, we

also have Council Member Tony Avella from Queens,

Council Member Sara Gonzalez from Brooklyn.

Council Member Charles Barron from Brooklyn.

Yeah. [pause] [background noise] Okay, we're

going to couple the three items, the, the two

budget mods and the conflict of interest

disclosure form. Call the roll. The transparency

resolution, preconsidered.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Reyna. Council Member Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Not, not

withstanding Mr. Klein's obstinance, I vote aye on

all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Gennaro.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

3

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

4

Gerson.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye on all.

6

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

7

Gioia.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I vote yes

9

on all, thank you.

10

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

11

Koppell. [pause] Council Member Sears.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

13

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

14

Vann.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

16

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

17

Comrie.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

19

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

20

Yassky. Council Member Gentile. Council Member

21

Ignizio.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

23

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

24

Oddo.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

1
2 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now
3 stands at eleven in affirmative, zero in the
4 negative, zero abstentions. The vote will be held
5 open until 12:40.

6 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay, the
7 vote'll be held open for a half hour. Other than
8 that, we're adjourned. [gavel] Please sign the
9 Committee reports.

10 [pause]

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
12 Gentile, how do you vote?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote
14 yes.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
16 Koppell.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes.

18 [pause]

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member de
20 Blasio.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: I vote
22 aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote on Finance
24 is now 13 in the affirmative, zero in the
25 negative, no abstentions.

1

[pause]

2

3

COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on
Finance, Council Member Reyna.

4

5

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.
I vote aye, and congratulations to the Farrell,
Monsignor Farrell School, who's hockey and
wrestling have made the City Championships?

6

7

8

9

MALE VOICE: State.

10

11

12

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: State
Championship for this, for the hockey team, and
City, and the wrestling--

13

14

MALE VOICE: All the way around,
wrestling won State.

15

16

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Wrestling
won State and hockey won what?

17

18

MALE VOICE: City and State finals.

19

20

21

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: City and
State finalists. Keep up the good work, guys.
Hopefully that gives you scholarships to go to
college. Congratulations, Council Member Oddo.

22

[pause]

23

24

25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the
Committee on Finance is now 15 in the affirmative,
zero in the negative, and zero abstentions. Thank

1

2 you.

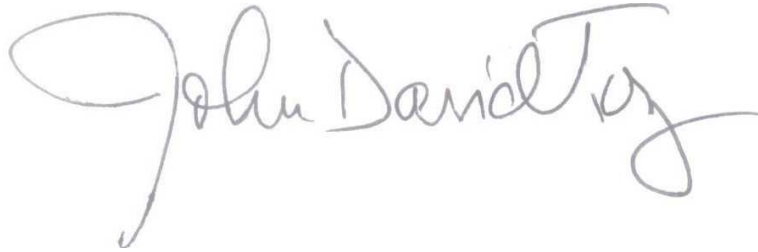
3 [pause]

4

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date April 28, 2009