COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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Room 696, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, October 8, 2003
10:10 a.m.

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BILL NO. 030641 - An Ordinance amending Chapter 20-300 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Compensation," by increasing the salaries of elected City officials and amending the provisions for annual cost of living salary adjustments

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PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL A. NUTTER
COUNCILMAN DARRELL L. CLARKE
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN L. KRAJEWSKI
COUNCILMAN RICHARD T. MARIANO
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER
COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO

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BILL NO. 030641 - 10/8/03

PRESIDENT VERNA: We will now go into the Public Hearing of the Committee of the Whole regarding Bill No. 030641.

Mr. McPherson, please read the title.

MR. McPHERSON: Ordinance No. 030641, an ordinance amending Chapter 20-300 of the Philadelphia Code entitled "Compensation, "by increasing the salaries of elected city officials and amending the provisions for annual cost of living salary adjustments, all under certain terms and conditions.

PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Do we have anyone to testify on this bill?

We have no one to testify on this bill.

Councilman Nutter, do you want to be recognized?

COUNCILMAN NUTTER: Thank you, Madam President. I will be very brief.

Madam President, I know that information was circulated last week in this regard. But I did at least want to point out for the record, Madam President, that of course this is always a delicate matter. But I at least want to make sure the record

is clear about comparable cities and other members of City Council in those various cities and their respective salaries.

Now, it is reported, has been reported in the news media, that the salary for a member of City Council in New York City, for example, is $90,000. And that is correct. That is the base.

But we also find that 41 of the 51 members of City Council in New York have enhanced compensation by their either Chairing a committee or a major subcommittee in New York. Which, if you Chair a committee, your additional compensation is $15,000.

So the majority of members of the New York City Council, their actual total compensation is approximately $105,000.

Secondly, with regard to our sister city in Chicago, their Council not too long ago passed a similar compensation ordinance which had a multi-tiered series of raises, such that the proposed raise for members of Council here in Philadelphia is the same rate that Chicago will be paying its Council Members in two years as set by ordinance.

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Lastly, I would finally note for the record, Madam President, that there are approximately 400 public employees who presently make the same compensation that members of City Council do today.

And they are all hard-working public employees, but I at least wanted to set some context for where we are and the comparables for other people who are public servants who are working hard to serve the public.

So I just wanted to add those items to the record as we move through this delicate process.

Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT VERNA: You are welcome, Councilman.

Are there any other comments or questions from members of the committee?

Do we have anyone who would like to testify on this bill?

I would ask again. Anyone to testify?

Please approach the witness table, sir.

Good morning. Please identify yourself for the record.

MR. TOM ZMARTIS: Good morning. My name

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is Tom Zmartis. I am the business agent for Local 222 under District Council 33.

And I would just like to have Council remember us when June comes next year with our contract. That's all. And 47. Thank you.

PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you.

Since we don't have any other witnesses, the Chair now recognizes Councilman Nutter. I am sorry. This will conclude our Public Hearing.

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PUBLIC MEETING

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PUBLIC MEETING

of the

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

- - -

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

- - -

Public Meeting conducted by the Committee of the Whole, held in Room 696, City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the above date, to consider action on the following:

BILL 030641

- - -

PRESENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA, Chair

COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR.
COUNCILMAN JAMES F. KENNEY
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE L. BLACKWELL
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PUBLIC MEETING

PRESIDENT VERNA: We will now go into our public meeting.

And the Chair recognizes Councilwoman Blackwell. Either Councilwoman Blackwell or Councilman Nutter will make a motion, please.

COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madam President, I move that Bill No. 030641 be reported out of committee with a favorable recommendation, and a recommendation for suspension of the Rules so as to permit consideration at our next session of Council.

(Duly seconded.)

PRESIDENT VERNA: It has been moved and seconded that Bill No. 030641 be reported out of committee with a favorable recommendation, also a recommendation that the Rules of Council be suspended so as to permit first reading at our next Council session.

All in favor will indicate by saying aye.

Those opposed?

The record will reflect that Councilman Goode voted no. All other members voted in the affirmative.

This concludes our public meeting. Thank you all very much.

(Public Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing proceedings of the Council of the City of Philadelphia of Wednesday October 8, 2003, were reported fully and accurately by me, and that this is a correct transcript of same.

RE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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DEBRA A. WHITEHEAD