

City of Salem, Massachusetts



**"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 39 §23B, and
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

The City Council Committee on Administration & Finance co-posted with the Committee of
the Whole

met in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matter(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on
February 25, 2011 at 11:21 A.M.

(This meeting is being recorded.)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: All committee members present.

Committee of the whole members present Sosnowski, Lovely / Late Ryan.

SUBJECT(S)

91 Ordinance relative to Compensation for the mayor.

Councillor Finney brought in the order and spoke of the need
to review and raise the salary for the mayors
position. Suggested it be tied to inflation or
some other index so it would adjust automatically.

Councillor Pravey spoke to the need to separate personalities
from the discussion and would not like to see an
escalator clause.

Councillor Pravey moved to keep the salary the same
seconded by Councillor Boran.

Under Discussion.

Councillor Boran. Spoke to how just recently we
gave the position a 20% raise by increasing
the salary from 80,000 to 100,000.

(over)

Councillor Pinto echoed the sentiment of the other
councillors.

Councillor Ryan stated that the current salary
seemed to be in the right ballpark.

Councillor Soszynski stated that we as a body (Councillors)
gave back our \$2,000 dollar stipend when we gave
the mayor's position a raise two years ago keeping our
total compensation the same.

Councillor Furey spoke to taking no action tonight
was sending the wrong message as to professionalizing
government.

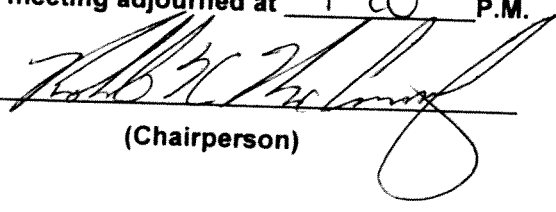
Councillor's Pinto and Rorain again spoke out against the idea
of raising the salary.

The vote was moved 4 to 1 in favor of keeping the
compensation the same.

(Continued)

On the motion of C.

the meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.


(Chairperson)

92 Ordinance relative to compensation for School Committee.

Dr Walsh submitted an e-mail that he sent out to everybody, (included)

Dr Walsh spoke to how there is a need to raise the compensation. It may attract more qualified individuals to run for the positions. He felt the school committee compensation should be tied to the councils. He stated that by the ordinance the issue of compensation has not been addressed since 1989.

Councillor Prevey asked about the language of the ordinance as to why it is worded \$2,500 for expenses. He continued by saying there is a need to raise their compensation since it hadn't been addressed in so long.

Dr Walsh stated he was not sure of why it was worded the way it was.

Councillor Roman made a motion to double their compensation to \$5,000 and add language to review / no second

Councillor Sosnowski asked if the payment if increased should be spread out over the whole year as opposed to 1 lump sum.

Councillor Pinto agreed to the idea of raising the salary but wanted to be sure it did not trigger Pension ect.

Councillor Larchy spoke to how the compensation should be tied to the mayors to make it more consistent to the way the councils is.

Councillor Finney agreed with Councillor Lively

Councillor Finney also agreed with that notion. It would make it easier down the road knowing if the mayor's position is increased then all the elected positions are increased.

Councillor Moran moved to tie the school committee's compensation to the mayor's @ 6% of the total and refer the matter to the committee of licences, orders and legal Affairs to amend the ordinance.

Second by Councillor Pinto

Dr Walsh stated he would speak to his fellow members as to how they would like their compensation paid out and report back to the Chair before it was referred over to COLLA.

The motion was voted out 5 to 0 to recommend approving the increase.

Councillor Finney moved for adjournment

Second by Councillor Pinto

Mrs Lovely and Gentlemen:

I shall be in attendance at tonight's meeting. Let me briefly lay out why I requested that this measure be submitted to you.

Timeliness (1) --- I understand that you are working on matters of relative compensation and this seems to be an appropriate time to correct the School Committee compensation situation.

Timeliness (2) --- The last time compensation for the School Committee was addressed was in the late 1980's. Twenty-plus years later a correction is appropriate.

Fairness - The School Committee deals with a significant segment of the municipal budget. Compensation should reflect that responsibility, as your compensation reflects your responsibilities. As your compensation is tied to that of the Mayor, this measure would tie School Committee compensation to your own.

Thank you for your consideration. I will see you this evening.

Sincerely,


Brendan Walsh

PS – Note that I should have included in the rationale that it is becoming increasingly difficult to get people to run for the School Committee. This might help encourage participation.

BRW