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October 23, 2007

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Committee on Finance convened on October 23, 2007, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Dennis Sullivan and John Connolly also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Walter Pero and Thomas Taylor, Finance Director Ed Bean, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Richard Brescia and Diane DeAngelis from the Assessors' Office, City Solicitor John Gannon and Gerry Boyle from Capital Projects.

Mr. Brescia and Ms. DeAngelis spoke about the Property Tax Deferral Program, explaining the program's guidelines, the methods used to publicize the program, the difference between this program and the Work-Off Program and the manner in which hardship cases are handled. Ms. DeAngelis told the members that Cindy Hickey, the Director of the Council on Aging, has been very helpful in working with this program. Chairman Heuston and Alderman Connolly suggested other ways of publicizing the program to make the public aware of it.

Mr. Boyle addressed the committee regarding a request for an appropriation and bond of \$475,000 for the construction of the Trum Field Fieldhouse. Mr. Boyle explained that there were various change orders made and that there were some unforeseen conditions that arose during the project, such as the retaining wall not being up to today's standards and therefore, having to be replaced. Mr. Boyle told the members that the contractor has been very cooperative and that the project is 35% finished.

Alderman Connolly expressed concern over the sidewalk being closed and Alderman Desmond was concerned about the soil disposal. Mr. Boyle stated that some of the soil was contaminated and had to be disposed of accordingly.

Chairman Heuston requested that an explanation be provided to the committee for each change order item and requested additional information about the project, noting her concern that other parties might be responsible for some of the additional costs. Alderman Connolly asked Mr. Gannon to provide the committee with an opinion regarding the city's chances of recovering damages from the architects, or other parties who might be at fault.

Chairman Heuston stated that this item will be continued to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following item:

**184302:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to pay a prior year invoice of \$6,187.56 in the DPW for Waste Management.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

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Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman  
Committee on Finance

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Finance,  
October 23, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

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Clerk