COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
FINANCE, TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE
Judy Doesschate, Chair

Meeting called by: Judy Doesschate, Chair Date: 9-12-18 Time: 6:00PM

Invitees/Speakers
Marisa Franchini
Treasurer Darius Shahinfar

Committee Members
Doesschate, Chair ☒ O’Brien ☒ Applyrs ☒ Farrell ☒ Robinson ☒

Present:
Council Members
President Pro Temp Conti, Alfredo Balarin, and Michael O’Brien

City Personnel
Present: City Auditor Susan Rizzo

Minutes

Agenda Item:
Chair convened the meeting stating members present and the agenda.

The Chair announced the Committee would first consider Resolution 67.82.18R, the proposed resolution for authorizing the provision of an additional five business days for certain persons 65 years of age or older to pay their taxes without interest or penalty.

Points of Discussion:
- There is no financial impact for Resolution 67.82.18R
- City property taxes will be due February 6 for senior citizens and January 31 if they are not
- We should allow all to split their property tax bill
- Most residents who pay taxes on City property tax bill on time are usually senior citizens and/or have the Enhanced STAR
- This resolution does not need to be renewed yearly
- Corporation Counsel will consider amending local law and possibly put the amendment in CODE
- Amended resolution to remove “certain” in title and body and
- Council Member Farrell made a motion to move Resolution 67.82.18R (As Amended) out of committee with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Councilmember Applyrs. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the Resolution 68.91.18R
- The City is not certifying what the tax rate of the school district, just what the locally adjusted homestead and non-homestead proportions are
- The school district is offered specific proportion options by New York State
- Council Member Dorsey made a motion to move Resolution 68.91.18R (As Amended) out of committee with a favorable recommendation, which was seconded by Councilmember Farrell. After further discussion, the motion was WITHDRAWN.
• We cannot find the School district authority to set a different locally adjusted homestead and non-homestead proportions from the municipally has set.
• Council Member Dorsey made a motion to respectfully decline to vote on Resolution 68.91.18R (As Amended), which was seconded by Councilmember Doesschate. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the 2019 City budget process
• Common Council does not have authority to add or delete lines or salaries
• We can make recommendations
• We spend a lot of time on the budget but we have little authority over
• We used to have a mid-year budget review and sometimes we come to a two-way agreement on the budget side
• Council Member Applyrs recommended that the committee review budget first then draft questions and then meet with departments, therefore, we have a more structural process.
• However, it was also agreed that we would want to schedule certain Departments initially for presentations.
• The first week, Department of Recreation, Youth and Workforce Services, Department of Planning and Development and Buildings and Regulatory Compliance will present to Committee.
• The second week, Department of General Services, and Department of Fire and Emergency Services will present to Committee.
• The third week, Albany Police Department will present to Committee.
• Council Member Farrell noted that she would find a brief document highlighting goals, issues and concerns helpful. Members agreed it would be good to ask Department heads for such a document.
• We will provide a letter to all departments explaining the new process If Mayor does not include raises for non-union we cannot implement raises for ourselves.