

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-MAY 10, 2011-

A Special meeting of the Cranston City Council was reconvened on TUESDAY, May 10, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island from Thursday, May 5, 2011.

The meeting reconvened at 6:45 P.M. by Council President Lupino.

Roll Call showed the following members present: Councilwoman Luciano Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro (appeared at 7:30 P.M.), Archetto, Santamaria (appeared at 7:30 P.M.), Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino –7.

Also Present: Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration; Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor; Robert Strom, Director of Finance; Mike Igoe, City Controller; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor; Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel.

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SCHOOL DEFICIT REDUCTION

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to resume Executive Session. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Archetto, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -7. Councilmen Navarro and Santamaria were not present for vote.

The meeting convened in Executive Session at 6:46 P.M.

Present in Executive Session: Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro (appeared at 7:30 P.M.), Archetto, Santamaria (appeared at 7:30 P.M.), Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino; Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor; Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel; Attorney Matt Oliverio.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -9.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 8:00 P.M.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilwoman Luciano, it was voted to seal minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -9.

BUDGET ADOPTION

Present: Councilwoman Luciano (appeared at 6:40 p.m.), Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro (appeared at 9:30 p.m.), Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -9.

Also Present: Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration; Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration; Robert Strom, Director of Finance; Mike Igoe, City Controller; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor; Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel.

Council President Lupino indicated that if the Council fails to vote on the Budget by May 15th, per the City Charter, the Mayor's Budget becomes effective as submitted.

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Councilman Archetto motioned to amend line item #2101-51114 "Fire Overtime" by reducing it by \$200,000 and appropriate that amount towards reduction of taxes. Councilman Stycos seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Archetto asked how many firefighters will be retiring in the coming year. Ms. Schutt stated that the Mayor has budgeted for approximately five retirements in the Severance line item. She cautioned that when cutting Overtime and Severance, it may depend on when during the year the employee retires, and this would also effect minimum manning because if there is a retirement, it might effect Overtime due to minimum manning.

Council President Lupino handed the gavel to Council Vice-President Pelletier.

Council President Lupino asked Councilman Archetto if there is any chance of a compromise on this amendment to reduce it. Ms. Schutt indicated that Overtime is part of the gross pay.

Gavel was handed back to Council President Lupino.

On motion by Councilman Archetto, seconded by Councilman Stycos, it was voted to amend his original motion to amend line item #2101-51114 "Fire Overtime" and reduce it to \$100,000 and original motion and second were withdrawn. Motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Archetto, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Santamaria and Favicchio -6.

On motion by Councilman Archetto, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to amend line item #4110 "Abatements" to \$275,000 and appropriate the \$50,000 towards reduction of taxes. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -9.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to delete the "Elderly Exemption" for homes valued over \$400,000.

Under Discussion:

Mr. Woerner stated that this would require an Ordinance to be passed prior to tax bills being sent out.

Council President Lupino handed gavel over to Vice-President Pelletier.

Council President Lupino stated that the only way he could support something like this is if the Ordinance states that exemption be tied to an income qualification. He also stated that motion states homes valued over \$400,000, this does not include homes valued at \$400,000. If the intent is for homes over \$400,000, it should be stated at over \$400,001.

Gavel was handed back to Council President Lupino.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 2-7. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Stycos and Archetto -2. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Navarro, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -7.

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On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to amend "Capital Budget – Playgrounds" from \$140,000 to \$70,000. Motion passed on a vote of 6-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Santamaria and Favicchio -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Luciano, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -3.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to amend previous amendment to line item #4201-51113 "Library – Part-Time Help" from \$50,000 to -0- in light of new information he received, which the Library just received \$300,000.

Under Discussion:

Ms. Schutt stated that she believes the money the Library just received is HUD Grant for Capital work to be done at the Central Library. This was not told to the Finance Committee during their department budget hearing.

David Macksam, Library Director, appeared to speak and stated that this Grant came through in 2006 from HUD for the Arlington Library project. This money has a sunset date of 2013 and since the Arlington Library project is not moving forward any time soon, he approached HUD approximately three months ago to see if this money could be used for another project. They allowed this and on May 5th he was told this was still in progress. This money will strictly be used for upgrades for HVAC and resurfacing parking lot. It will not be used for operation or to pay for any salaries.

Ms. Schutt stated that Parks and Recreation and Highway has and is plowing the Library lots and cutting grass and bushes at a \$26,000 savings for the Library. The Administration has level funded the Library this year and have not reduced them by the \$26,000.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Donahue, Favicchio and Council Vice-President Pelletier -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Santamaria and Council President Lupino -6.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to amend line item #350-51114 "IT - Overtime" to -0-.

Under Discussion:

Gavel was handed to Council Vice-President Lupino.

Council President Lupino questioned if a certain employee could be designated to work off hours, which would avoid Overtime. He asked if this is possible through the negotiation process. Ms. Schutt stated that in many cases, this is done. There is also an employee in this department who has flex time. There are expected issues particularly when IT oversees the Police Department also, which contribute to the Overtime. By Law, we cannot mandate the members of the Teamsters Union to take Compensatory time as opposed to Overtime. This Union gave up Overtime as part of their concessions last year and have received Compensatory time instead. This will sunset this year.

Gave was handed back to Council President Lupino.

Mr. Strom stated that in the last two years, we have reduced staff in this department by 2 ½ positions.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 2-7. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Santamaria and Council Vice-President Pelletier -2. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Favicchio and Council President Lupino -7.

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Council Vice-President Pelletier indicated that he has other amendments to "Office Supplies" in several departments, totaling \$37,400. He asked if an individual vote is needed or can they be done as a block. Council President Lupino asked if anyone would like to make a motion to take them as a block. No one made any motion.

Council Vice-President Pelletier motioned to amend line item #0401-53001 "Law Department" from \$1,000 to \$500. No one seconded the motion.

Council Vice-President Pelletier motioned to amend line item #0450-53001 "Personnel Department" from \$400 to \$200. No one seconded the motion.

Council Vice-President Pelletier motioned to amend line item #0555-53001 "Municipal Court" amended to \$1,500. No one seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET AND SALARY SCHEDULE FOR THE GENERAL FUND, THE SEWER FUND, INSURANCE FUND AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2011 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2012 AND ADOPTING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE FOUR SUCCEEDING YEARS

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Donahue, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 6-3. The Following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Navarro, Archetto and Santamaria -3.

ORDINANCE MAKING ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CITY OF CRANSTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2011 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2012

On motion by Councilman Favicchio, seconded by Councilwoman Luciano, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 6-3. The Following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Navarro, Archetto and Santamaria -3.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS AND LEVY OF TAXES

On motion by Councilman Donahue, seconded by Councilwoman Luciano, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 6-3. The Following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Navarro, Archetto and Santamaria -3.

ORDINANCE FIXING THE DATE WHEN TAXES ARE ASSESSED, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010 WILL BE DUE AND PAYABLE AND THE DATE WHEN UNPAID TAXES WILL CARRY A PENALTY

On motion by Councilwoman Luciano, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 5-4. The Following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Favicchio and Council President Lupino -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Navarro, Archetto, Santamaria and Council Vice-President Pelletier -4.

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ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 13 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON, 2005, ENTITLED 'PUBLIC SERVICES'

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 6-3. The Following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Navarro, Archetto and Santamaria -3.

Council President Lupino announced that there will be a possible meeting on Friday, May 13th at 5:30 P.M. in the event of any Mayor's veto.

The meeting recessed at 10:15 P.M.

Maria Medeiros Wall
City Clerk

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees