

(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 5, 2011-

A Special meeting of the Cranston City Council was held on THURSDAY, May 5, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island originally scheduled at Cranston High School East Auditorium.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Council President Lupino.

Roll Call showed the following members 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.

-MAY 5, 2011-

The City Clerk read the following:

**CITY OF CRANSTON
RHODE ISLAND**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
2011- 2012 BUDGET ADOPTION**

In Accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Section 3.07 thereof, I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council to be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. in Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, RI at which meeting the following items of business shall be transacted:

6:30 – 7:00 PM Executive Session: RIGL 42-46-5(a) (2) Litigation
School Deficit Reduction

7:00 PM Open session:

- Consideration and action on the Operating Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Home Rule Charter.
- Consideration and action on Resolution levying and order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable real estate and tangible personal property pursuant to Section 6.11 of the Home Rule Charter and Ordinance fixing the date when taxes are assessed and due and payable.
- Consideration and action on any other related Ordinances and Resolutions pertaining to the City of Cranston's budget.

I hereby request the City Clerk to notify all Council members of the Call of the special meeting.

Executed at Cranston, Rhode Island, this 2nd day of May, 2011.

/s/ Anthony J. Lupino, Council President

"Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing-impaired must notify the Office of the City Clerk at 461-1000 Ext. 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date."

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a true copy of the attached Call of a special meeting of the City Council to be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. in the Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. was delivered via electronic mail on the 2nd day of May, 2011 to the addresses listed below.

Council President Anthony J. Lupino
15 Black Oak Court
Cranston, RI 02920
tlupino@cox.net

Council Vice-President Robert J. Pelletier
81 Laconia Rd.
Cranston, RI 02920
robpelletier1@verizon.net

Councilman James E. Donahue
43 Marcy St.
Cranston, RI 02905
jimdonahue@cox.net

Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
61 Autumn St.
Cranston, RI 02910
Navarro_emilio@hotmail.com

Councilman Richard Santamaria
20 Burr St.
Cranston, RI 02920
Ritaj10@yahoo.com

Councilman Paul Archetto
359 Princess Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
Parchetto@ccri.edu

Councilman Michael W. Favicchio
153 Belvedere Dr.
Cranston, RI 02920
mike@favilaw.com

Councilman Steven A. Stycos
37 Ferncrest Ave.
Cranston, RI 02905
steven@stycos.com

Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano
435 Oaklawn Ave. #322
Cranston, RI 02920
laluciano@cox.net

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

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SCHOOL DEFICIT REDUCTION

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Stycos, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -7.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 6:37 P.M.

Present in Executive Session: Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino; Robert Strom, Director of Finance; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor; Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel; Peter Nero, Superintendent of Schools; Joe Balducci, Chief Financial Officer; Ray Votto, Chief Operating Officer; School Committee Members Andrea Iannazzi and Frank Lombardi.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Stycos, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -7.

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 8-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -8. Councilman Navarro was not present for roll call vote.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 8:30 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Archetto, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to continue Executive Session regarding this issue to Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -8. Councilman Navarro was not present for roll call vote.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -8. Councilman Navarro was not present for roll call vote.

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.

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Public Speakers:

Joseph Agresti, 176 Florida Ave., appeared to speak and stated that people in the City cannot afford tax increase.

Many Lopes, 49 Westwood Ave., appeared to speak and stated that Council Vice-President Pelletier, at the Finance Committee meeting, made an amendment that would have saved \$1.5 million and no one seconded his motion. That is a shame.

School Committee Member Janice Ruggieri appeared to speak and stated that the Finance Committee cut the Capital Budget repaving at Stadium School and Stone Hill School. This repaving is not for parking lots. They are for flat top services that are used for recess or physical education.

Dick Tomlins, 400 Farmington Ave., appeared to speak and stated that in all the meetings held regarding the Budget, there has been no discussion regarding the Schools. He asked when this issue would be discussed because the public has to know that.

Bobby Bach, 36 Azalea Court, appeared to speak and stated that he agrees with Mr. Lopes's statement. He commended Parks and Recreation and the Highway Department in regards to pictures posted on facebook.

Anthony Liberatore, 18 Bank St., Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak and stated that as to the all the recreational facilities, they were planned ahead of time to look beautiful today. The workers do their job every day.

Council Vice-President Pelletier announced the amendments that were voted and passed by the Finance Committee.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to amend total Revenue for an adjustment of \$395,369 as recommended by the Finance Committee. 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 roll call vote.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to amend total Expenditures for an adjustment of \$67,933 and Capital Budget and WIA Budget. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -8. Councilman Navarro was not present for roll call vote.

On motion by Councilwoman Luciano, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to amend Capital Budget to add \$185,000 back for repaving of Stone Hill and Stadium School.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos stated that asphalt paved surface is not a safe playing surface and we should not be encouraging the School Department to use paved areas for playing surface. This is why he originally proposed to cut this line item.

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Councilman Santamaria stated that even though one of the Schools is in his Ward, we are making cuts and raising taxes, this is not the time to be adding money in the Budget.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a tie vote. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Archetto and Council President Lupino -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Stycos, Santamaria, Favicchio and Council Vice-President Pelletier -4.

Council Vice-President Pelletier read a statement into the record regarding \$1.5 million in cuts that he proposed last week, but did not pass. He recommended to the City Council to put politics aside and approve some of his amendments.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to amend line item 4101-51221 “Parks and Recreation – Pool Attendant Wages” by reducing it by \$90,000; and the following line items

- 53025 - \$9,000
- 53035 - \$10,500
- 53031 - \$65,000

Reduction in Revenue of \$65,000; total reduction of \$174,000.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donahue stated that he appreciates the efforts Council Vice-President Pelletier has made during the Finance meetings in the process. He questions proposal to cut #54031 because he was advised that this is not just for the pool.

Ms. Schutt stated that this is not just for the pool, that is also for the water bill for the department.

Councilman Archetto stated that every home he has visited he was asked if the pool will be opened. By closing the pool, we would be denying the people who can't afford camps or taking their children to the beach, the opportunity to attend the pool.

Council Vice-President Pelletier stated that we are facing a \$6 million deficit. It comes down to nice to haves and must haves.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 2-6. 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, Archetto, Favicchio and Council President Lupino -6. Councilman Navarro was not present for roll call vote.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to amend line item #2801-51263 “Police Severance” to be reduced by \$175,000.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Santamaria asked if this is contractual. Ms. Schutt stated that prior to 2009, this was paid out of the Finance Department Severance line item. It was thought that it would be a little more transparent to place it under the individual department and it is contractual. Contractually, the City is obligated to pay out a certain amount.

Council President Lupino asked where we are at this time. Ms. Schutt stated that we are at \$99,000 for this year.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

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On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to amend #2811-51263 to \$87,500.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donahue stated that he is concerned that there will be a shortfall in this line item.

Councilman Navarro indicated that there is a Rainy Day Fund, which has been used in the past to offset deficits.

On motion by Council Vice-President Pelletier, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to move the question. Motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto and Santamaria -6.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend #2811-51263 and motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Santamaria Favicchio and Council Vice-President Pelletier -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto and Council President Lupino -5.

Council Vice-President Pelletier stated that he has enough in cuts to achieve -0-tax increase. Mr. Woerner indicated that the larger of the amendments are contractual and questioned if collective bargaining agreement would be violated. It was noted that there was not Solicitor in attendance. Ms. Schutt stated that she can try to get a Solicitor to attend if needed.

Council Vice-President Pelletier motioned to amend following line items:

- #4201-51101 - \$2,890,199
- 51113 - -0-
- 51249 - -0- and all applicable line items, which would shut down the Library.

Councilwoman Luciano seconded the motion to for discussion purposes.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Santamaria stated that State Law requires to level fund Public Libraries. Ms. Schutt stated that if you want to maintain State Aid funding, you have to have Library. If you close the Library, you lose your State Aid, which you would not need if you close them.

Councilman Donahue asked Council Vice-President Pelletier if he has calculated the net impact for the first two years and indicated that there would be transitional costs and facilities issues. Council Vice-President Pelletier stated that the City would still own the buildings. Mr. Strom stated that there would also be severances that will be an expenditure.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 1-8. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Council Vice-President Pelletier -1. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Santamaria, Favicchio and Council President Lupino -8.

Council Vice-President Pelletier motioned to amend #4502 to reduce it by \$139,730. No one seconded the motion.

Council Vice-President Pelletier motioned to amend #4503 to reduce it by \$456,750. No one seconded the motion.

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Council Vice-President Pelletier motioned to amend #4504 to reduce it by \$192,803. No one seconded the motion.

On motion by Councilman Donahue, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to continue this meeting to Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. for Executive Session and 8:30 P.M. for Public Session and adoption of Budget. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting "yea": Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Navarro, Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Stycos and Archetto -2.

The meeting recessed at 10:05 P.M.

Maria Medeiros Wall
City Clerk

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees