

(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).

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, January 12, 2012 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Council Vice-President Robert J. Pelletier
Councilman Steven A. Stycos, Vice-Chair
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Councilman James E. Donahue
Council President Anthony J. Lupino

Absent: Councilman Michael W. Favicchio

Also Present: Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Mark Capuano, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Carlos Lopez, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs
Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Denials**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Interest Waiver Denials as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions** due to taxes assessed December 31, 2010 (informational only)

No action needed.

Municipal Investment Sharing – investment and returns update

Mr. Strom stated that he spoke to the State Treasurer's Office today and they are still in contractual negotiations with Fidelity. It should be concluded by the end of this month. When he receives the final results, he will forward the information to the City Council.

Resolution Authorizing and Endorsing the Application for Enterprise Zone Re-designation under the Rhode Island Enterprise Zone Program. [[click here to view](#)]

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Lawrence DiBoni, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak and stated that every five years the Enterprise Zone has to be re-designated by the RI Enterprise Council. The City of Cranston has five Enterprise Zones in the City: Fields Point, Arlington area and Elmwood and Wellington area.

Councilman Navarro asked what the benefits are of the City having Enterprise Zones. Mr. DiBoni stated that there are benefits to the company/employer.

Council President Lupino asked if there has been any thought to expand the amount of Enterprise Zones the City has. Mr. DiBoni stated that we are only relegated to three Zones.

Councilman Stycos asked what the indications are that this is working. Mr. DiBoni stated that 120 jobs have been added in the companies in the Enterprise Zones since the last re-designation in 2006. Councilman Stycos stated that he would like to know how many jobs have been created since 2006 and how much tax revenue was lost. Mr. DiBoni stated that this program is a State program and it does not cost the City anything. He would have to ask the State Enterprise Zone Council for this information.

Councilman Stycos motioned to table this Resolution until the next meeting in order to review the information requested of Mr. DiBoni to see if this program works. No one seconded the motion.

Chair indicated that there is a motion and a second to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Councilman Stycos motioned to continue this Resolution to the February meeting in order for Mr. DiBoni to provide the Council with a list of employer and number of jobs created in the last five years and tax benefits given to companies under this program during the last five years. Councilman Navarro seconded the motion for discussion purposes.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Archetto asked if there is any need to continue this since this information can be forward to the City Council and by the Council meeting Mr. DiBoni can provide this information. Mr. DiBoni stated that this information has to be provided to him by the State, since this is a State program. He also indicated that there is a time frame since he has to provide this Resolution to the State Council either this month or next month depending on when he is placed on their docket.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Resolution and motion failed on a vote of 1-4. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Stycos -1. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Navarro, Donahue, Archetto and Council Vice-President Pelletier -4.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed on a vote of 4-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Navarro, Donahue, Archetto and Council Vice-President Pelletier -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Stycos -1.

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THE CITY OF CRANSTON

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Authorizing and Endorsing the Application for Enterprise Zone
Redesignation under the Rhode Island Enterprise Zone Program

No.

Passed:

Anthony J. Lupino, Council President

Resolved, That

WHEREAS, The City of Cranston is desirous of submitting a redesignation application to the State of Rhode Island Enterprise Zone Council under the provisions of Title 42, Chapter 64.3 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, As Amended for the redesignation of the City of Cranston Enterprise Zone located within the jurisdiction of the City of Cranston; and,

WHEREAS, This Redesignation requires the City of Cranston, Rhode Island make certain assurances and accept such terms and conditions that are required under Title 42, Chapter 64.3 of the General Laws of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Cranston, desires to support said application for redesignation to the Rhode Island Enterprise Zone Council; and

WHEREAS, The City of Cranston recognizes that no changes or modifications have been made to the original designation of the Enterprise Zone established on January 1, 1992.

The current Census Tracts included in the Cranston Enterprise Zone:

- Tract 135, block group 1
- Tract 136, block group 1, 2, 3
- Tract 137 block group 1, 2, 3, 4
- Tract 138, block group 1, 2 and
- Tract 141

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,**

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3 The Mayor of the City of Cranston be authorized and empowered to submit
4 redesignation application to the Rhode Island Enterprise Zone Council for the acceptance
5 and redesignation of the City of Cranston Enterprise Zone established on January 1,
6 1992.

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8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Mayor be, and hereby is authorized
9 and empowered to make any and all assurances; accept any and all terms and conditions
10 necessary and required to meet obligations and requirements of the Enterprise Zone
11 Council as part of the redesignation process, and in consideration of such redesignation,
12 the City Council of the City of Cranston hereby acknowledges its responsibilities and
13 duties to undertake further actions as shall be essential to meet the requirements and
14 obligations of such redesignation as to them shall seem necessary and proper and shall
15 have been recommended by the Mayor, the Director of Economic Development and the
16 Director of Planning.

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18 This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by the
19 Cranston City Council.

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23 Sponsored by Councilman Michael W. Favicchio

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26 Referred to Finance Committee January 12, 2011

Resolution Authorizing a Presentation before the Finance Committee of The City Council by The Berkshire Group and other similarly situated companies, to Assist in Developing Cost Saving Strategies for the 2012-2013 Budget Process. [\[click here to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Donahue, seconded by Council President Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos questioned if there is a charge for this presentation. Councilman Donahue stated that his understanding is there is no charge for the presentation.

Council President Lupino asked to make a friendly amendment to line #37 to state “Finance Committee” and delete “appropriate committees”. No one objected.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

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THE CITY OF CRANSTON

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Authorizing a Presentation before the Finance Committee of The City Council by The Berkshire Group and other similarly situated companies, to Assist in Developing Cost Saving Strategies for the 2012-2013 Budget Process

No.

Passed:

Anthony J. Lupino, Council President

Resolved, That

WHEREAS, The City of Cranston is facing budgetary shortfalls due to Pension Reform mandates from the State of Rhode Island, and from current economic conditions, and,

WHEREAS, there are various companies that provide services designed to review any and all aspects of municipal and institutional operations budgets at no cost to the municipality or the institution; and,

WHEREAS, THE City Council of the City of Cranston is desirous of exploring any and all methods of cost savings on behalf of the taxpayers of the City of Cranston

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The City Council of the City of Cranston hereby takes initiative of seeking presentations before the appropriate committees of The Berkshire Group and any other similar company to assist in formulating cost saving strategies prior to the budget hearings relative to the 2012-2013 City Budget.

Sponsored by Councilman Michael W. Favicchio

Referred to Finance Committee January 12, 2012