

(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, May 16, 2013, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos, Chair
Councilman Mario Aceto
Councilwoman Sarah Kales Lee
Councilman Donald Botts, Jr.
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Council Vice-President Michael J Farina, Vice-Chair

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff
Michael Glucksman, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Finance Director
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 Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:

None.

- 3-13-06** Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance” (Capital Budget-Paving Funds Allocation). [\[click to view\]](#)
(Cont. for legal opinion from Council Atty.).

Councilman Archetto, Sponsor of this Ordinance, withdrew this Ordinance.

- 3-13-08** Ordinance in amendment of Title 3.76 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance” (Tax Incentive Repeal-Automotive Dealerships). [\[click to view\]](#)
(Cont. for Solicitor’s report on whether this would have impact).

Chairman Stycos, Sponsor of this Ordinance, withdrew this Ordinance.

Fiscal Note on Ordinances –opinion from Council’s attorney

Chairman Stycos stated that he has met with Mr. Strom and who assured him that when an Ordinance has a fiscal impact, he will provide a Fiscal Note.

Mr. Strom stated that a Fiscal Note should be attached only if an Ordinance had definite monetary factor to the Budget that has been passed by the City Council, such as a Labor Contract.

Chairman Stycos gave example of a need for Fiscal Note: chicken Ordinance and Taco Tax break. Mr. Strom stated that his concern is it is very difficult to generate a value to that Fiscal Note, especially if it is a new Ordinance.

Mr. Quinlan indicated to Section 3.04.030 of the City Code and Section 3.12 of the City Charter, which deals with Fiscal Notes. He stated that these Sections state that the Ordinance would come before the Committee and it would be up to the Committee to request a Fiscal Note from the Finance Director at that point. These Sections may need to be tweaked to make it a little clearer.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Real Estate and Tangible Tax Abatements** [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Botts, it was voted to recommend approval of the Real Estate and Tangible Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements** [[click to view](#)]

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Botts, it was voted to recommend approval of the Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Board of Tax Assessment Review for taxes assessed December 31, 2011 (informational only)** [[click to view](#)]

No action needed.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

None.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Denials**

None.

Review of Budget process - suggestions for improvements

Councilman Aceto stated that the process this Budget year was very thorough. Everyone encouraged debate and the Administration was very helpful.

Mr. Strom stated that this was the smoothest Budget process since he has been with the City. The only request he would have for the future is if there are specific questions, they be provided to him prior to the meeting in order for him to have the answers prepared or speak to the appropriate department head. This was done in the past and worked well and he was more prepared to answer questions.

Council President Lanni thanked Mr. Strom for his comments.

]

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees