

(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, June 13, 2013, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Also Present: Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Finance Director
Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Botts, 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:

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

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

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

On motion by Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Denials**

On motion by Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver Denials as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

5-13-3 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance” (Tax Assessment Board of Review Compensation). [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Archetto stated that the appointments to this board, they seem to serve for decades. In his opinion, there should be term limits for this board, maybe no more than two years.

Council President Lanni stated that currently, they are three year staggered term limits on each member of this board, however, they keep being re-appointed and they seem to be there for ever. In this Ordinance, there are two Alternates being added and he suggested that one be from the majority party and one from the minority party. As to compensation, he suggested \$50 per meeting, which would cover their time spent out of the office looking at properties. This would be a small thank you for all the hours they put in.

Councilman Stycos motioned to amend this Ordinance to add a new #6 to state: “No person shall serve more than six years on the Tax Assessment Board of Review”. Councilman Aceto seconded the motion.

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President Farina stated that Section 3.08.050 of the Code states that the Board are not to be paid.

Mr. Quinlan stated that the powers and duties of the Board are set forth in Section 7.16 of the Charter.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend the above Ordinance as stated by Councilman Stycos and motion passed on a vote of 4-3. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Stycos, Archetto, Aceto and Councilwoman Lee -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Botts, Council Vice-President Farina and Council President Lanni -3.

Councilman Stycos motioned to amend the above Ordinance as follows: lines #34 and 35, remove “\$50 per meeting” and add “\$1,000 per year”. Councilman Aceto seconded the motion.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Botts asked Councilman Stycos to increase the amount to \$1,250 per year.

Council President Lanni stated that being in a revaluation year, \$3,000 per member per year is reasonable.

Discussion took place on stipend for the Alternates.

On motion by Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, it was voted to make stipend of \$2,750 and have \$750 put aside for the Alternates. Motion and second were withdrawn.

Council Vice-President Farina motioned to amend Councilman Stycos’ amendment to \$2,750 per person per year and put aside \$750 for Alternates and Alternates to be paid \$25 per meeting. Councilman Aceto seconded the motion. Motion passed on a vote of 4-3. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Lee, Councilmen Botts, Aceto and Council Vice-President Farina -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Stycos Archetto and Council President Lanni -3.

Councilman Stycos motioned to amend this Ordinance as follows: new #4 to read “minutes shall be kept of each meeting including the reasons for approval or denial of each appeal” and subsequent items to be renumbered. Councilman Archetto seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended and motion passed unanimously.

Resolution loan order authorizing the issue of \$2,500,000 bonds of the City to finance the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, repair, alteration and equipping of playgrounds and athletic fields in the City of Cranston; authorizing the City to apply for federal and state advances for that purpose; authorizing the issue of \$2,500,000 temporary notes for that purpose; and authorizing advances from the General Treasury for that purpose. [\[click to view\]](#)

Mr. Strom appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Botts, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution loan order authorizing the issue of \$6,000,000 bonds of the City to finance the repair, construction and rehabilitation of drainage improvements, and the remediation and mitigation of drainage and flooding problems, throughout the City of Cranston; authorizing the City to apply for federal and state advances for that purpose; authorizing the issue of \$6,000,000 temporary notes for that purpose; and authorizing advances from the General Treasury for that purpose. [\[click to view\]](#)

Mr. Strom appeared to speak.

On motion by Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution loan order authorizing the issue of \$900,000 bonds of the City of which not more than \$600,000 shall be used to finance the acquisition, construction and equipping of a new public library branch in the Arlington section of the City of Cranston and not less than \$300,000 shall be used to finance repairs, renovations and upgrades and equipment for all public libraries in the City of Cranston; authorizing the City to apply for federal and state advances for that purpose; authorizing the issue of \$900,000 temporary notes for that purpose; and authorizing advances from the General Treasury for that purpose. [\[click to view\]](#)

Mr. Strom appeared to speak.

On motion by Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Medeiros Wall
City Clerk