

(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 12, 2014, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
 Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
 Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs
 Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Finance Director
 Ken Mason, Director of Public Works
 Anthony Moretti, 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 Aceto, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, 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:

Council Majority Leader Archetto stated that at the last Council meeting, he asked the Administration to provide a chart of where in the City the street sweepers were and what streets have been swept. He also had asked the Administration to find out who owns the damaged fence at Gladstone St.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

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

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve the above list of Abatements as recommended by the City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

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

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Vice-President Farina, it was voted to approve the above list of Abatements as recommended by the City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals** [\[click to view\]](#)

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

- **Tax Interest Waiver Denials** [\[click to view\]](#)

None.

Administration's Failure to Spend Money Appropriated by City Council for tree planting in FY2013 & FY2014. Councilman Stycos.

Mr. Barone stated that he spoke to RI Tree Council today and placed an order for trees to be planted along with delivery, installation and mulch. He is just waiting for the bill to come in before we send out the payment. This is approximately \$5,000.

5-14-03 Ordinance in Amendment of Title 2 Chapter 08 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005 Entitled "Officers, Departments and Administrative Provision" (Registrar and Board of Canvassers). Councilman Stycos.
[\[click to view\]](#)

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

5-14-04 Ordinance In Amendment of Title 3, of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005 Entitled "Revenue and Finance" (Tax Assessor Duty to Inspect). Councilman Stycos. [\[click to view\]](#)

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

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President Farina stated that he likes the concept of this Ordinance, but his concern is he feels the \$15,000 is too low, \$25,000 may be a better number

Mr. Strom stated that he had discussions with the Assessor was advised that the process is he receives a copy of the five part form from the Building Inspection's Office once they go do the inspection. He then uses that form as a guidance to go out. He really inspects all the permits regardless of the amount. He still does his inspection without receiving any type of certificate of occupancy. In the Assessor's opinion, he is doing exactly what the Council wants him to do and he does not feel there is a necessity of the amount of money to be there.

Council Vice-President Farina withdrew his concern.

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Council Vice-President Farina, it was voted to remove from lines #34-37 the following language: "which improvements are valued on the building permit application in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000), the Building official shall notify the Tax Assessor of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy on the structure".

Under Discussion:

Mr. Strom stated that the Tax Assessor has indicated to him that if the Council wishes, he can attend the next Council meeting to further discuss this Ordinance.

Council Vice-President Farina asked that the Administration find out from the Assessor what he actual current process is and the time frame of inspections being done.

On motion by Council Vice-President Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

5-14-06 Ordinance Authorizing the City of Cranston to Enter Into a Contract Addendum Between the City and Local 1363, IAFF Modifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement. [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Botts, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Mr. Cordy stated that this Addendum was negotiated with the Firefighters Union after the last contract was negotiated and it came up during the Budget session and the Council was made aware of it then. This Addendum is for restructuring of the Civilian Dispatchers. According to the Finance Director, there is no financial impact to the Budget, it is a plus.

Chief McKenna appeared to answer questions.

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

Resolution Requesting that the General Assembly Appropriate Funds to Reimburse the City of Cranston for Election Expenses. Councilman Archetto. [\[click to view\]](#)

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Botts stated that he is not sure how effective this is going to be. Either way, it is our money. Whether the City pays for it or the State.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed on a vote of 4-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Lee, Council Majority Leader Archetto, Councilman Aceto and Council President Lanni -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Stycos, Council Vice-President Farina and Councilman Botts -3.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees