

(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, March 12, 2015, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilman Steven A. Stycos, Chair
 Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto, Vice-Chair
 Councilman Michael J Farina
 Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
 Councilman Donald Botts, Jr.
 Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Councilman Mario Aceto

Also Present: Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
 Councilman Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
 Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
 Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 Anthony Moretti, City Council Internal Auditor
 Maria Mederios Wall, City Clerk
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council Majority Leader Archetto, 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. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

11-14-01 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 3.04 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Fiscal Provisions" (Ordinance Fiscal Notes). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos. (Cont. 1/12/2015 and 2/12/2015). [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Chair stated that he met with Paul Valletta, Ken Rouleau, Mr. Moretti and Mr. Strom regarding the fiscal note. He asked Mr. Moretti to speak regarding that meeting.

Mr. Moretti stated that the meeting was a productive meeting. What was not resolved at that meeting was the final presentation of the fiscal note and the manner in which it is presented to the City Council.

Chair stated that what was also not resolved was how temporary concessions are recorded. What he would like to do is forward this Ordinance to the Audit Committee and try to get some sort of agreement at the Audit Committee.

Chair asked that this Ordinance be continued.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to continue this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council Majority Leader Archetto stated that in his opinion, this Ordinance should be withdrawn until everything is resolved. He will support the continuance, but he would rather have the Ordinance withdrawn for further studies.

Councilman Farina stated that he cannot support this until we have an alignment from everyone involved. He agrees with Council Majority Leader Archetto that it should be withdrawn for now.

Council Vice-President Santamaria questioned line #33 "be prepared mathematically correct" and stated that this, he feels does not need to be in this Ordinance and is not needed. It sounds insulting to an accountant having this language in this Ordinance.

Councilman Botts agreed that the Ordinance should be withdrawn. He also stated that Mr. Strom has done a great job and we have had surpluses in the past three years and there is no need to address this any further.

Mr. Strom stated that to have this Ordinance go to the Audit Committee, even though the Audit Committee Members are knowledgeable people, they do not have a strong knowledge of municipal accounting and they do not do fiscal notes.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue and motion passed on a vote of 4-2. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Stycos, Council Majority Leader Archetto, Council Vice-President Santamaria and Council President Lanni -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Farina and Botts -2.

Resolution in Support of Legislation to Allow the City to Use Income Criteria in Determining Whether to Grant Property Tax Relief. Councilman Stycos. (Cont. 2/12/2015). [\[click to view\]](#)

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos presented a packet from State Office of Municipal Affairs. He indicated that per the City Assessor, from 2008-2014, there are approximately 5,400 Exemptions at a cost in Revenue of approximately \$2.8 million. At this point, he is not proposing a change.

Councilman Farina stated that he has some concerns now as a he had last time this was before the Council. He understands the intent, but he knows there will be challenges in enforcing this.

Council President Lanni stated that what bothers him is the income level is not addressed in this Resolution. Another concern is enforcement. He does not think this is enforceable.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that this would drive more people to leave the State. Also, he questioned who is going to review the income tax documents. This is going to cause more problems. We do not need to send this kind of message to our Seniors in the City.

Councilman Paplauskas stated that he thinks people are taxed enough and he is opposed to this Resolution.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion failed on a vote of 1-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Stycos -1. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Council Majority Leader Archetto, Councilman Farina, Council Vice-President Santamaria, Councilman Botts and Council President Lanni -5.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

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

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions assessed as of December 31, 2013.**
(For Information Only) [\[click to view\]](#)

No action needed.

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

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals. Motion passed unanimously.

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

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver Denials. Motion passed unanimously.

- **List of pending labor cases and specific attorneys assigned (Councilman Aceto). Referred from 2/23/2015 City Council.**

Solicitor Kirshenbaum reported the following are pending cases:

- LIUNA – 1 case regarding work classification. Case has been sent to Arbitration and date has not been assigned yet.
- Various Police matters:
 - one case related to 2012 contract
 - one case related to 2013 contract
 - three cases related to Officer related to retirement
 - one case related to reprimand
 - five cases related to retirement – being handled by Tim Bliss and Vincent Ragosta
 - one IOD case – pending, being handled by Attorney Robinson
 - three cases, same individual, two settled and one pending
 - IBPO negotiation – being handled by Attorney Robinson
 - IBPO case involving dispute over qualification testing – handled by Attorney Ragosta, but he withdrew and now being handled by Attorney Robinson
- Teamster Arbitration – has not been assigned yet

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that Attorney Ragosta sent correspondence to the Mayor approximately two weeks ago stating that due to his trial schedule, it would not permit him to handle two Officers' cases in the next 90 days. Council President Lanni asked if the trail Attorney Ragosta is involved in is a City trial. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that he does not think it is a City trial.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees