(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, July16, 2015, 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
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.
Councilman Mario Aceto
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present:
Councilman Christopher 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 Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Bob Santagata, President of IBPO, appeared to speak regarding Ordinances 6-15-04 and 6-15-05 and stated that this is the best Police Department in the State and they have worked without a contract for two years. This is a fair contract for the Officers and a fair contract for the City. This Department has experienced controversy and criticism over the last two years.

Colonel Michael Winquist appeared to speak and asked that the City Council support Ordinances 6-15-04 and 6-15-05 and stated that he believes this contract is fair. This contract would be another milestone for this Department. They have worked without a contract for the past two years and it would bring stability. Complaints in Internal Affairs have been down 50% from 2013.

Richard Tomlins, 400 Farmington Ave. appeared to speak and stated that it appears that during the life of this contract, the cost to the City would be approximately $700,000. This is a pretty fair contract and commended the Officers who negotiated this contract. They do not get paid as much as they should be for the dedicated work they do day in and day out because of the expense Captain Antonucci has cost the City and now he will be retiring and be paid a pension.

CORRESPONDENCE:

OLD BUSINESS:

4-15-04 Ordinance in amendment of Title 5 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Business Licenses and Regulations" (Bus Shelter Permit Fees). Sponsored by Council Vice-President Santamaria. (Cont'd 5/14/2015 & 6/11/2015).

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

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President Santamaria presented a handout of the list of bus shelters in Cranston and stated that because of the bad winter, people had to wait for buses in the street because bush shelters were not cleared of snow. RIPTA and LAMAR were asked to appear before the City Council and they already stated that they were not going to clean out the bus shelters. He did some research and Solicitor Kirshenbaum researched and found that there is an agreement and at one of the Committee meetings, a question was asked of what the liability to the City was. LAMAR receives $700,000 in advertising revenue at the shelters throughout the State and RIPTA receives a stipend of that.

Council Vice-President Santamaria stated that he is introducing this Ordinance to charge RIPTA a fee for the shelters and he received an email this week from RIPTA stating that they want to meet. He asked that the Committee pass this Ordinance to the full City Council and he will report back to the Council on the outcome of the meeting with RIPTA. He indicated that this Ordinance is not a money grab, it is a safety grab and this would be a yearly fee.

Council President Lanni stated that maybe the $250 permit fee is not enough because RIPTA is still opposed to clearing the shelters.

Councilman Aceto asked if the Administration could give an estimate on cost to clean 31 shelters after every snowstorm. Mr. Coupe stated that he would have to speak to Mr. Liberatore and Mr. Corso to see which of their department would be doing that. The problem is it is on the sidewalk. The question would be where does the snow go, do we truck it away or where would we place it.

Council Vice-President Santamaria stated that he would be opposed to have the City clean the shelters. This would enable RIPTA not to clean them at all. He would rather increase the fee.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Majority Leader Archetto, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: line #31, amend $250.00 to $500.00.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Botts stated that he is in favor of having RIPTA clean the shelters, but his concern is whether this is going to be viewed as something as punitive.

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that none of the shelters have gone through the Inspections Department. We do not even know if they are safe and also there is the tax on tangible and maintenance going forward. He suggested possibly adding language in the Ordinance adding a fine for not clearing the shelters.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend the above Ordinance and motion passed unanimously.

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

Administrative Report: All existing bonds and percentage rates being paid. (Councilman Aceto) (Cont. 6/11/2015).

Chair stated that this item was discussed at the last Council meeting and no discussion is needed this evening.

5-15-02 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue and Finance" (Tax Exemption Elderly and Disabled). Councilman Stycos.

Chair stated that he spoke to the Salvatore Saccoccio, Tax Assessor, who indicated to him that he would like to speak regarding this Ordinance, but could not attend this evening. Chair asked that this Ordinance be continued.

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Abatements.

Under Discussion:

Council Majority Leader Archetto questioned the Tax Abatement for Ken Schreiber on page 3 of the list and questioned if it is ethical for the Council to vote on this since he is a Municipal Court Judge. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that this to correct an error acknowledged by the City and the Council can vote on this.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatement and motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***~~Tax Interest Waiver Approvals~~**

None.

Administration report on actual state aid versus city budget projections of state aid.

Mr. Strom stated that major increase was in the School Aid.

6-15-03 Ordinance in amendment of Title 12.04 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Streets and Sidewalks Generally" (Roadway Excavation Permit Fee). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

6-15-04 Ordinance Ratifying the IBPO (International Brotherhood of Police Officers Contract) LOCAL UNION 301 (FY July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014) Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.
Under Discussion:

Council President Lanni addressed Mr. Santagata's remarks regarding this Department's experiencing controversy and criticism. That has nothing to do with the rank and file, it was Administration. He stated that he supports this contract 100%. It is a fair contract.

Councilman Farina thanked all the members of the members of the Department for all they do. He is 110% supporting both contracts. With Colonel Winquist at the helm and two great Majors, the future is very bright for the Cranston Police Department.

Council Majority Leader Archetto stated that he thinks this is a good contract and thanked the Administration and Union leadership.

Councilman Botts stated that looking at the fiscal note, $760,340 cost for this contract. Prior contract, it was $454,414. He asked what the major differences are. Mr. Strom stated that this is a five year contract and the prior one was a four year. Last contract had a step increase. In this contract, there is reduction in Fiscal Year 2016 of 3 Police Officers. Councilman Botts stated that he agrees that Cranston Police do an excellent job throughout the City. They should be commended for the job that they do.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio stated that the Cranston Police have done a great job in his Ward also. He also stated that it is a fair and practical contract and is in line with other contracts in the City that the Council has approved.

Councilman Paplauskas thanked the staff for all the work they do and stated that he will be supporting this contract.

Chair stated that he will be voting in favor of this contract because this contract is better than the last contract because the money is going to everyone. The last contract was loaded to the higher ranks. Another reason he support this contract is there are no steps for the higher ranks in this contract.; language is better as to seniority and management rights. He also stated that the reason he voted against the last contract was increasing the number of Detectives from 25 to 30.

No one appeared to oppose.

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

6-15-05 Ordinance Ratifying the IBPO (International Brotherhood of Police Officers Contract) LOCAL UNION 301 (FY July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017) Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

No one appeared to oppose.

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

MISCELLANOUS BUSINESS:

Council Vice-President Santamaria announced that we have received the other 25% Grant for the solar panels at Cranston High School West.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

Wall, Maria

From: Saccoccio, Salvatore
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 1:12 PM
To: John.Lanni@Yahoo.com; Richard Santamaria; Stycos, Steven; Archetto, Paul; Botts, Donald; Farina, Michael; Aceto, Mario; Favicchio, Michael; Paplauskas, Christopher; Santamaria, Richard; Michael Farina (dukefarina@cs.com); Christopher Paplauskas (Chrispaplauskas@gmail.com)
Cc: Wall, Maria; Zanni, Rosalba; Strom, Robert; Coupe, Robert; Fung, Allan; Lopez, Carlos
Subject: proposed amendment to elderly exemption

June 10, 2015
To: Cranston City Council
From: Sal Saccoccio, Tax Assessor
Re: Proposed amendment to 3.20.40 E of the municipal code
(Tax Exemption Elderly and Disabled)

Councilmen, I believe that this proposed amendment is unjustified, not needed, and will cause a number of problems in the administration of the Tax Assessor's division.

What is being proposed is already being done including fact that we check each and every exemption every year.

Currently we have a staff member who is dedicated to administering exemptions in the office. We currently monitor, among myriad other duties, address changes, sales of property (real and personal) for residents who currently have any exemption. She has been performing this job for 37 years and has thorough knowledge of the laws pertaining to exemptions in the city.

As part of the application process for this exemption, one of the questions a taxpayer is asked is if they own property anywhere else besides Cranston and Rhode Island and whether they have a vehicle registered in Cranston. They then sign the application under penalty of perjury as stated in the ordinance.

There are currently 5,433 elderly real estate exemptions. Each exemption is deduction of $536.79 off their tax bill.

In order to adhere to the proposed change our office would need to compile this list for mailing (at a cost of $2500 for mailing along with the time and effort provided by the clerk to document such) each year. Response to this mailing would have to be completed by March each year in order to establish budget numbers. If only 10% of the recipients neglected to reply in a timely manner this would result in a total of almost $300,000 not being deducted. When the taxpayers come in after receiving their bill and show proof that they do indeed still live at the property, this will result in abatements for $300,00. If this is not budgeted for it will create a shortfall. We had this problem 15 years ago when the homestead exemption was in effect. There was no way of accurately knowing how much this change would affect the budget then or now. At this point I believe that I am conservative in the 10% estimate and the number could easily be higher resulting in an even higher deficit.

This, what seems like a small change, would actually command another employee to be hired just for this provision.

In ending I would urge the committee to vote against this proposed change.

Salvatore Saccoccio Jr
City Assessor
401-780-3188

Submitted B. Strom
Ex Session 6/22/2015
IBPO - CBAs M. Wall

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1														
2														
3														
4							**Police FY13 - FY17 Fiscal Note**							
5														
6			**FY13**		**FY14**		**FY15**		**FY16**		**FY17**		**TOTAL**	
7			**0.00%**		**3.00%**		**3.00%**		**3.00%**		**3.00%**		**12.00%**	
8														
9	**Yearly Increase**				256,161		263,846		271,761		279,914		**1,071,682**	**12.55%**
10														
11	**Payroll Taxes (.0145)**				4,071		4,690		4,394		4,526		**17,681**	
12														
13	**Pension Costs**				30,458		36,121		34,840		35,885		**137,304**	
14					**11.89%**		**13.69%**		**12.82%**		**12.82%**			
15														
16	**Longevity 11.5%**						30,342		31,253		32,190		**93,785**	
17														
18	**Retro Overtime**				24,612		29,233						**53,845**	
19														
20	**Reduction of Police Officers**						(142,294)	-2	(213,441)	-3			**(355,735)**	
21														
22	**Subtotal**				**315,302**		**221,938**		**128,807**		**352,515**		**1,018,562**	
23														
24	**Life Insurance Increase from $80K-125K**										$18,630		**$18,630**	
25														
26	**Health Care**													
27														
28		**Individual**	**1040/yr.**				**$1196/yr.**		**$1352/yr.**		**$1508/yr.**			
29							**14.71%**		**16.63%**		**18.54%**			
30		**Healthmate (25)**												
31		**$ 3.00/wk. increase**					($3,900)		($3,900)		($3,900)		**($11,700)**	
32														
33		**United (11)**												
34		**$ 3.00/wk. increase**					($1,716)		($1,716)		($1,716)		**($5,148)**	
35														
36														
37		**Family 2080/yr.**					**$2392/yr.**		**$2704/yr.**		**$3016/yr.**			
38							**12.14%**		**13.72%**		**15.30%**			
39		**Healthmate (39)**												
40		**$ 6.00/wk. increase**					($12,168)		($12,168)		($12,168)		**($36,504)**	
41														
42		**United (29)**												
43		**$ 6.00/wk. increase**					($9,048)		($9,048)		($9,048)		**($27,144)**	
44														
45		**HSAFamily (36)**		**$1768/yr.**										
46														
47		**HSAIndividual (6)**		**$ 884/yr.**										
48														
49		**OPEB Actives $11.54/ Per Pay Period**					($44,700)		($44,700)		($45,600)		**($135,000)**	
50														
51		**OPEB Retirees 7/1/15 $ 25.00/month**				**2**	($600)	**4**	($1,200)	**6**	($1,800)		**($3,600)**	
52														
53		**Detail Revenue for Admin ($2.50-$5.00)**							($60,000)		($60,000)		($120,000)	
54														
55		**Defer Two Holidays for 10% of the Officers**							($11,915)		($11,915)		($23,830)	
56			**15 @ $397.15/Holiday**											
57														
58		**Reduction of Two Sick Days (27-25 days/yr.)**							($63,812)		($65,115)		($128,927)	
59														
60	**Total**												$545,339	

31 SHELTERS

Panel	Location Description	Media Type	Illumination	Postal Code	Area	Facing	Read
5018	US 1 ELMWOOD AV E/S, N/O ALTON ST. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5019	US 1 ELMWOOD AV E/S, N/O ALTON ST CRAN	Shelter	N- None	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5020	US 1A NARR BLVD E/S,N/O US1A NORWO CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2905	CR	North	Left of Road
5021	US 1A NARR BLVD E/S, N/O US1A NORWO CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2905	CR	South	Right of Road
5022	RI 22 RESERVOIR AV E/S S/O RICHLAND CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North East	Left of Road
5023	RI 22 RESERVOIR AV E/S S/O RICHLAND CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South West	Right of Road
5026	RI 5 OAKLAWN AV RI 33 NEW LONDON CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Left of Road
5027	RI 5 OAKLAWN AV RI 33 NEW LONDON CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Right of Road
5028	RI 5 OAKLAWN AV E/S,S/O MAYFIELD A CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Left of Road
5029	RT 5, OAKLAWN AV E/S,S/O MAYFIELD A CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Right of Road
5030	RI 12 PARK AV N/S,E/O @PONTIAC AVE CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	West	Left of Road
5031	RI 12 PARK AV N/S @ PONTIAC AVE E/O CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	East	Right of Road
5032	RI 33 NEW LONDON AV @ GARDEN HILLS P CR	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	South	Left of Road
5033	RI 33 NEW LONDON AV @ GARDEN HILLS P CR	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	North	Right of Road
5036	RI 117 BROAD ST E/S,N/O NORWOOD AV CR	Shelter	D - Other	2905	CR	North	Left of Road
5037	RI 117 BROAD ST E/S,N/O NORWOOD AV CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2905	CR	South	Right of Road
5040	CRANSTON ST E/S, N/O HOWARD ST CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Left of Road
5041	CRANSTON ST E/S, N/O HOWARD ST CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Right of Road
5042	CRANSTON ST W/S, N/O RI 12 PARK AV CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Left of Road
5043	CRANSTON ST.W/S,N/O RI 12 PARK AV CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Right of Road
5044	PONTIAC AV W/S S/O HODSELL ST CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Left of Road
5045	PONTIAC AV W/S 30' S/O HODSELL ST CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Right of Road
5046	PONTIAC AV W/S, N/O HERSEY CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Left of Road
5047	PONTIAC AV W/S, N/0 HERSEY CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Right of Road
5048	PONTIAC AV W/S @ KENNEY SR S/O CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Left of Road
5049	PONTIAC AV W/S @ KENNEY SR S/O CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Right of Road
5410	PONTIAC AVE N/O GARDEN CITY DR. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5411	PONTIAC AVE N/O GARDEN CITY DR. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5412	PONTIAC AVE S/O BECKWITH CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5413	PONTIAC AVE S/O BECKWITH CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5414	ROLFE SQUARE W/S, S/O PARK AVE. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Left of Road

5415	ROLFE SQUARE W/S,S/O PARK AVE. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Right of Road
5416	ROLFE ST.E/S,N/O CLARENCE CRAN	Shelter	N - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5417	ROLFE ST.E/S,N/O CLARENCE CRAN	Shelter	N - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5418	PONTIAC @ MAPLETON CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5419	PONTIAC @ MAPLETON CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5420	RESERVOIR AVE RT 2 E/S S/O BURNSIDE CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5421	RESERVOIR AVE RT 2 E/S S/O BURNSIDE CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5480	PONTIAC AVE.W/S @ HERSEY RD. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5481	PONTIAC AVE.W/S @ HERSEY RD. CRAN	Shelter	A - Flourescent	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5702	RESERVOIR AVE. E/S,S/O BLAISDELL CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5703	RESERVOIR AVE. E/S,S/O BLAISDELLCRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road
5704	MIDWAY DR. E/S,S/O CRANSTON/JOHN SCHOOL	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Left of Road
5705	MIDWAY DR. E/S,S/O CRANSTON/JOHN SCHOOL	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Right of Road
5706	PONTIAC AV. W/S,N/O SOCKANOSETT CR	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Left of Road
5707	PONTIAC AV. W/S,400' N/O SOCKANOSETT CR.	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Right of Road
5762	GARFIELD ST.S/S @ CRANSTON PARKADE CR	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	East	Left of Road
5763	GARFIELD ST.S/S @ CRANSTON PARKADE CR	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	West	Right of Road
5770	GARFIELD AVE, N/S @ CRANSTON PARKADE	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	West	Left of Road
5771	GARFIELD AVE, N/S @ CRANSTON PARKADE CR	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	East	Right of Road
5784	CRANSTON ST. W/O GARFIELD ST. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	East	Left of Road
5785	CRANSTON ST. W/O GARFIELD ST. CRAN	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	West	Right of Road
5862	RT.5,OAKLAWN AVE., MESHANTICUT CRAN	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	North	Left of Road
5863	RT.5,OAKLAWN AVE., MESHANTICUT CRAN	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	South	Right of Road
5864	PONTIAC AVE. PETTACONSETT AVE. CRAN	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	North West	Left of Road
5865	PONTIAC AVE. PETTACONSETT AVE. CRAN	Shelter	N - Other	2920	CR	South West	Right of Road
5896	CRANSTON ST.E/S,40' S/O UXBRIDGE ST. CR.	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North East	Right of Road
5897	CRANSTON ST.E/S,40' S/O UXBRIDGE ST. CR.	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South West	Right of Road
5922	GARFIELD AV.E/S 500' S/O CRANSTON ST. CR	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	North	Left of Road
5923	GARFIELD AV.E/S 500' S/O CRANSTON ST. CR	Shelter	D - Other	2920	CR	South	Right of Road
5932	RT.2,RESERVOIR AVE.E/S,N/O WOODRIDGE	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	North	Left of Road
5933	RT.2,RESERVOIR AVE.E/S,N/O WOODRIDGE	Shelter	D - Other	2910	CR	South	Right of Road