

*(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, July 14, 2016, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Absent:                    Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.

Also Present:            Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director  
                                 Michael Glucksman, Assistant City Solicitor  
                                 Robert Strom, Director of Finance  
                                 Anthony Moretti, City Council Internal Auditor  
                                 Patrick Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel  
                                 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 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.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:**

**David Robbins**, Union Contract Coordinator, appeared to speak and stated that what this contract does is it gives the most to the people in the lower end of the pay scale.

**Lynne Furney**, member of the negotiating team for Local 251, appeared to speak and stated that financially, this is not one of the best contracts. This contract is very fair. For the first time, the lower paid employees will get the same hourly increase as the higher paid. She asked for full support of this contract.

- **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. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

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

**6-16-06      Ordinance transferring appropriations and amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Transfers/Supplemental Appropriations).** Sponsored by Mayor.

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

Under Discussion:

**Chair** stated that at the last Council meeting, Mr. Quinlan was asked to research and give legal opinion on whether by the Charter, we can make 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Transfers after the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter is over. He asked for Mr. Quinlan's legal opinion.

**Mr. Quinlan** indicated to Section 6.16 of the Charter and stated that the language in the Charter is ambiguous. He also indicated to Ch. 6.13 of the Charter and stated that based on both of these sections, both the actions by the Mayor and the City Council must be completed by the last three months of the Fiscal Year.

**Council President Lanni** asked if there are any penalties involved in transferring appropriations after the end of the Fiscal Year. Mr. Quinlan stated that there is a section in the Charter that deals with appropriations made in violation. Council President Lanni asked how it would affect the City of Cranston and the Council does not approve the transfers. Mr. Quinlan stated that it does not really change the numbers or the Budget. He also stated that, in his opinion, there is nothing from an accounting standpoint that happens.

**Councilman Farina** asked if he is correct in stating that these are bills already incurred. Mr. Strom stated, yes. What the City tries to do is try to balance out each department. This has been done this way for seven years. He also indicated that the Council needs to consider the following:

- GASB 67 & 68 and Auditor General Report does not come in until the end of December
- Actuarial Report does not come in until September
- We also have the 60 Day Rule
- We have bills that come in after June 30<sup>th</sup>

From an accounting standpoint, if the Council does not pass this Ordinance, it does not make a difference as far as the result. The bottom line is still the bottom line.

**Solicitor** stated that this is cleaning up the Budget, that is all it is. This is a tool to do the Budget next year. The original intent, as he reads it, is that the Mayor has to make the request in the last three months of the Fiscal Year, not the Ordinance approval has to be done.

**Mr. Quinlan** stated that the Charter states that the Mayor shall submit an Ordinance.

**Mr. Coupe** stated that the intent is transfers have to be done towards the end of the year when the Budget is spent.

**Council President Lanni** stated that the City Charter is clear that transfers have to be done in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, not July.

**Mr. Moretti** echoed Mr. Strom's thoughts that there are no accounting impact or any external fiscal impact.

**Mr. Strom** noted that the City Council is provided with monthly financial statements that show positive and negative variances.

**Chair** asked Mr. Quinlan how he would suggest things be handled in the coming year as to transfers to comply with the Charter. Mr. Quinlan suggested that an Ordinance be submitted in May for consideration in June.

**Councilman Farina** withdrew his motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Councilman Botts withdrew his second to the motion.

**Councilman Aceto** suggested putting together an Ordinance with deadline and no action be taken on this Ordinance.

**Councilman Aceto** asked if the Council would be in violation of the Charter if it voted on this Ordinance. Solicitor stated that the Council has to take some sort of action.

**Mr. Coupe** stated that, on behalf of the Administration, he is withdrawing this Ordinance.

**6-16-07 Ordinance ratifying the Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of America Local Union 251, Municipal Employees (FY 2015-2018).**  
Sponsored by Mayor.

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

Under Discussion:

**Mr. Coupe** recognized the members of the bargaining team showing up and showing their support and urged passage of this contract.

**Councilman Aceto** stated that this Union has taken on the chin year after year and people need to realize that this Union is the face of the City. Other than that, he is not really happy with some of the things in this contract.

**Council President Lanni** agreed with Councilman Aceto and also stated that the only thing he likes about this contract is it gives additional money to lower paid employees.

**Councilman Farina** stated that he likes the fact that this contract gives everyone the same raise.

**Councilman Botts** agreed that this is a fair contract and the percentages are in line with what other Union received.

**Councilman Stycos** congratulated the Union for negotiating across the board raise. He stated that he also feels this is a fair contract.

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

**Resolution authorizing the City of Cranston to consent to mutual aid agreements with the Town of Coventry, Town of Johnston, City of Providence, Town of Scituate, City of Warwick and Town of West Warwick.**

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

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Aceto** asked if the City has mutual aid with other municipalities. Mr. Coupe stated, yes. Councilman Aceto asked if there is one for Police and Fire. Mr. Coupe stated, yes. Councilman Aceto asked when that comes up for renewal. Mr. Coupe stated that he will have to check into that. Council President Lanni asked that an update on whom the City is currently doing mutual aid with be given at the Council meeting.

**Councilman Aceto** asked Mr. Coupe if he has had any discussions with the Union leadership on this. Mr. Coupe stated, no, he has had discussions with the Colonel.

**Councilman Aceto** questioned who is responsible if an Officer is injured. He asked that Mr. Coupe report back at the Council meeting regarding this.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**Chair** asked that the following be placed on next month's agenda:

- Lack of diversity in the Fire Department and how that can be corrected.

**Councilman Aceto** proposed that the Ordinance and Finance Committee meetings for the months of August and September be held at 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively, due to the campaign season. Members present were in favor of this proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees