

*(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, November 17, 2016, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 P.M. by the Chair.

Present                    Councilman Steven A. Stycos, Chair  
                                 Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto, Vice-Chair (left meeting at 8:47 p.m.)  
                                 Councilman Michael J Farina (left meeting at 8:47 p.m.)  
                                 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  
                                 Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent Affairs  
                                 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor  
                                 J. Patrick O'Neill, Assistant City Solicitor  
                                 Robert Strom, Director of Finance  
                                 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 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:**

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

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

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

- **Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions as of December 31, 2014**

No action needed.

### **Appropriation of funds for the Historic Cemeteries Commission** (referred from Ordinance Committee 10/13/2016)

**Mr. Strom** stated that at the last meeting, he mentioned there is a historic cemetery line item in the budget, but that was for maintenance of a particular cemetery and those funds cannot be used except for one particular cemetery, however, there are some other areas that we can take funds from, such as "Orders of the Council".

### **Amount City has spent to date on Guilbeault Case** (*Council Vice-President Santamaria*)

**Solicitor Rawson** stated that, including arbitrations and litigations, since 2011, total is \$198,000. He noted that this includes representation for each of the parties.

### **Cranston Stadium, - status update report from Administration** (City Council 10/24/2016)

**Mr. Coupe** stated that there has been very little change since the last report. The Engineering Department is working on RFP for design.

**Councilman Aceto** asked what is going on as far as payments to Mr. Filarski, City Council Grant Writer. **Mr. Coupe** stated that **Mr. Strom** has been reviewing the bills. There are some questions **Mr. Strom** has that need to be resolved.

**Mr. Strom** stated that he sent an email to Mr. Filarski today and as to the grant writing, he will be processing that payment tomorrow. As to the bills for construction and process of the Stadium, he does not feel comfortable to approve because he can't prove the hours Mr. Filarski is billing for. As to the work for the schools, he thinks the School Department should be paying for part of the bills. That has to be clarified with Mr. Balducci of the School Department before Mr. Filarski is paid. **Mr. Strom** stated that he would like to meet with Mr. Filarski, hopefully the beginning of next week, to go over the itemized bills.

**Councilman Aceto** asked Mr. Filarski if he is the project manager on this project. Mr. Filarski stated that he is the architect for the project. At one point, he was acting as the architect and the owner. He stated that he is under contract for architect for the project. If the City goes out to bid for an architect, there is a legal conflict there.

**Council Minority Leader Favicchio** stated that it is inappropriate for the City Council to get involved in contractual disputes.

**Council President Lanni** stated that Mr. Filarski is owed and should be paid. This should get settled before it gets to the Courts.

**Councilman Aceto** stated that he is worried about losing the Grant money.

**10-16-02 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 15.04.020(A) of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Building Code" (Amendments, Additions and Deletions) (Impact Fees Revised).** Sponsored by Councilman Stycos.

**Chair** withdrew this Ordinance.

#### **MISCELLANOUES BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Strom** stated that the Audit is approximately 99% complete. It should be completed by end of next week. He had discussions with Mr. Moretti and Council President Lanni and he would like to hold a meeting of the Audit Committee on either November 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Audit and possibly meet on December 7<sup>th</sup> again and have a recommendation forwarded to the December 8<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting.

**Chair** asked Clerk to canvas the members of the Audit Committee as to their availability for either the 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> of November and schedule a meeting of the Audit Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees