

(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 Monday, March 6, 2017, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair
 Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
 Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.
 Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
 Councilman Paul J. McAuley
 Council President Michael J Farina

Also Present: Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
 Councilman Paul H. Archetto
 Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
 Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent Affairs
 J. Patrick O'Neill, Assistant City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, 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:

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to suspend the Rules and have discussion regarding overview of the Parks and Recreation Department from Director Liberatore. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to have Director of Parks and Recreation appear to give overview the operation of the Parks and Recreation Department. (Councilman Hopkins).

Anthony Liberatore, Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak.

Councilman Hopkins stated that he was appointed as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and he has no history of that Board.

Mr. Liberatore stated that this is an Advisory Board. He will work with Mr. Barone to see if any other positions need to be filled. He believes there are nine members to the Board. They meet one time every three months unless something comes up and then they will meet. The meetings are held at the Engineering Department in the Hamilton Building. The last meeting of the Board, he believes was in August.

Councilman Hopkins asked what some of the projects are that are going on in the City. Mr. Liberatore stated that this Fiscal Year, a new synthetic turf will be installed at the Cranston Stadium. It should be in by the end of June. Councilman Hopkins asked when the current turf was installed. Mr. Liberatore stated that general lifespan is ten years. The current turf was installed in 2007.

Councilman McAuley stated that he received a call from a constituent of a rumor of a soccer field being put in on Doric Ave. He asked if this is true. Mr. Liberatore stated that he is currently in negotiations with Northeast Futbol, which they would pay to install a synthetic turf soccer field on Doric Ave. at no cost to the City. They would pay for everything. He, as this Ward's Councilman would like to be updated periodically on this.

Councilman Archetto stated that he and the constituents in the Stadium area are concerned about graffiti around the Stadium and on telephone poles as you enter the Stadium. Mr. Liberatore stated that the poles belong to National Grid and they have been contacted.

Councilman Archetto asked what the status is, if any, on a dog park in the City. Mr. Liberatore stated that this issue was before the prior City Council and former Councilwoman Sarah Lee and she and Robin Coia started an effort for a dog park. He suggested the area at Oak Hill Terrace and gave them figures to do the cleanup for it and they were going to do fundraising and he has not heard from them since he gave them those quotes. Council Vice-President Favicchio stated that this area is for the Oak Hill Terrace playground so it could not be used for a dog park.

Council President Farina asked that Administration give an update at the next Council meeting on the Oak Hill Terrace Playground and new site for a dog park in the City. Mr. Liberatore stated that he will look for other possible areas for the May Council meeting.

Councilman Lanni asked when the locker rooms at the Cranston Stadium will be completed. Mr. Liberatore stated that at this time, RFP went out for bid and bids were received and reviewed. We will know where we are going in about two weeks. Councilman Lanni stated that he is concerned that there is a Grant for this, which expires August, 2017. Mr. Liberatore stated that the job does not have to be completed by August, 2017. We have to show that work has been started by then.

Councilman Hopkins asked Mr. Liberatore for some history of the Teen Youth Center. Mr. Liberatore stated that the City operated the Teen Center in 2007 when he came to the City. The YMCA signed a five-year lease in 2007 with the City to take it over. As to the Teen Center, that would be an ideal location for the Parks and Recreation Office if they get evicted from the Hamilton Building because the City leases the space from the State and the lease, he believes, is up in 2019. Councilman Hopkins stated that he has two concerns with the Teen Center. One is the condition of the Center right now and also the extensive damage to electrical and kids running around with no supervision. Council President Farina asked that the Finance Director provide information at the next Finance Committee meeting of what it costs the City to run the Center in 2011.

- ***Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel - for discussion of monies owed to Kenneth Filarski, former City Council Grant Writer. (Councilman Lanni).***

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting went into Executive Session at 8:00 P.M.

Present in Executive Session: Council Vice-President Favicchio, Councilmen Hopkins, Colford, Paplauskas, McAuley, Archetto, Lanni and Council President Farina; Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director; Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent Affairs; Robert Strom, Director of Finance; J. Patrick O'Neill, Assistant City Solicitor; Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk; Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 8:35 P.M.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

- ***Real Estate Tax Abatements***

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

- ***Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements***

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

- ***Tangible Abatements***

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

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Approvals***

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

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Denials***

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

Purchasing of park benches on Rolfe St. (Councilman Archetto)

Councilman Archetto asked Administration to look into fact-finding mission to purchase four park benches on Rolfe St. He stated that a constituent, who lost a son to cancer, is willing to pay for two benches with a memorial plaque. Mr. Coupe stated that he will look into it.

Report from Administration regarding Municipal Court Fees to the State. (Councilman Stycos).

Council President Farina stated that since Councilman Stycos had requested this item to be placed on the agenda and he is not present this evening, he asked that this be continued to the Council meeting under Council Member Communications.

Request to have Director of Parks and Recreation appear to give overview the operation of the Parks and Recreation Department. (Councilman Hopkins).

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilman Archetto asked that the following item be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting under Executive Session: what transpired at the Highway Garage regarding employee who was accused of sleeping there.

Chair stated that this is a personnel matter, which could be an issue.

City Clerk stated that Open Meetings Law requires employee being discussed have a right to whether they would like discussion to be held in public session or not.

Chair asked that the Clerk provide him with last year's Finance Budget hearings schedule so he can start working on a schedule for this year's hearings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosalba Zanni".

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees