

(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, April 3, 2017, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair
 Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
 Councilman Paul J. McAuley

Absent: Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
 Councilman Trent M. Colford, St.

Also Present: Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
 Councilman Steven A. Stycos
 Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
 Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent Affairs
 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 Salvatore Saccoccio, City Assessor
 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 Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman McAuley, 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:

- **Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Filarski - potential litigation**

See minutes at end of meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

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

Adm. report on cost of running the Teen Center. Council President Farina

Mr. Strom stated that he had a discussion with Council President Farina regarding this issue and they both agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman McAuley, it was voted to remove this item from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

03-17-03 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3.16 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue and Finance" (Commercial Renewable Energy Systems Tangible and Real Estate Tax Values). Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

Robert Murray, Esq., appeared to speak representing Southern Sky Renewable Energy of Rhode Island and stated that this Ordinance would apply not just to solar farms but also wind turbine projects and presented a handout. \$100.00 per year on Palumbo Wester Cranston project.

Ralph Palumbo of Southern Sky Renewable Energy of Rhode Island, appeared to speak.

Councilman Lanni stated we could save considerable money in Cranston if we use the same process used in Providence. Cranston will be getting \$100,000 a year while Providence is getting \$800,000.

Councilman Papluskas asked Mr. Saccoccio if this is a standard Ordinance with other municipalities. Mr. Saccoccio stated that the tangible portion is. Real Estate varies. He has seen lower and higher.

Councilman Stycos asked that Mr. Saccoccio compile a memo for the City Council on how he came up with the \$2 and his calculation.

Attorney Murray stated that the proposed \$1 per kilowatt and the Administration proposed \$2 and that is what is listed in the Ordinance.

Councilman Stycos asked Mr. Palumbo if he approached the City of Cranston with an opportunity to participate in an arrangement like he did with Providence. Mr. Palumbo stated that he provided a generalized proposal.

Mr. Coupe stated that Mr. Palumbo came forward with a proposal. He indicated that we need to separate virtual net metering from the tax treatment because they are two different projects. City hasn't missed opportunity for virtual net metering, this is the 3rd one to come to the City. The savings won't be as high as Providence. City will be looking at virtual net metering, different process from tax agreements. Mr. Palumbo had wanted a tax pilot agreement, the City's policy is against individual agreement.

Councilman Stycos stated that he is concerned of what the ramifications are and who would be responsible for decommission if someone who owns a solar farm abandons it. Attorney Murray stated that they would have to post money to the City, per an Ordinance the City Council adopted. So the City would have the funds to decommission the solar farm.

Mr. Palumbo stated that residential developments comes with burden to the City, Police, Fire and other City expenses, where this comes with -0- burden.

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

- **Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Filarski - potential litigation**

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

Meeting went into Executive Session at 8:05 P.M.

Present in Executive Session: Council Vice-President Favicchio, Councilmen Paplauskas, McAuley, Lanni, Stycos; Jeffrey Barone, Constituent Affairs Director; Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor; Robert Strom, Finance Director; Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees.

Meeting came out of Executive Session at 8:25 P.M.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees