

(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, May 1, 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 Steven A. Stycos
 Councilman Paul H. Archetto
 Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
 Jeffrey Barone, Director of Constituent Affairs
 Evan Kirshenbaum, City Council Legal Counsel
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 Christopher Hallstrom, 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 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:

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

David DiMaio, President of Cranston High School West Alumni Association, appeared to speak in favor of "Resolution in support for Cranston West Auditorium" and presented a handout. He stated that the auditorium has not been renovated since 1963. In 18 months, the Association has raised approximately \$100,000. The hope is to start the project the day after graduation and hopefully be completed before the start of the school year. There will be handicapped seats with companion seats and the plan has been approved by ADA, the City and the State. Each seat will have a donor's name on it, with seat letter and seat number.

Councilman Lanni asked Mr. DiMaio how much he is looking to raise. Mr. DiMaio stated that the initial goal is \$200,000, at a minimum, \$150,000. He also stated that the auditorium could possibly get rented for events to raise money.

Councilman McAuley asked how many members are in the Association. Mr. DiMaio stated that there are seven members and they have 1200-1500 likes on facebook.

Councilman Archetto asked Mr. DiMaio if he has approached the Cranston Chamber of Commerce. Mr. DiMaio stated that he has not, but he will. He also stated that he has been in every office, Senator Reed and Representative Langevin's Office and they have been receptive, but they tell him that they are limited. He has met with the Mayor and the School Committee also. He does not go in looking for money, he is trying to get their support. He will reach out to everyone who is willing to listen.

Annual Tax Incentive Report – Director DiBoni

Chair stated that Mr. DiBoni, Economic Development Director, could not be present this evening.

Mr. Strom appeared to speak and explained the report.

Councilman Lanni asked what the amount of employees is that is needed for a company to qualify for the program. Mr. Strom stated that he does not have that information this evening, but there are four different programs and they vary.

- **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.

- **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.

Resolution in support for Cranston West Auditorium. Sponsored by Council President Farina.

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos asked if there is any money in the Mayor's proposed Budget targeted for this project. Mr. Strom stated, no, there isn't.

Councilman Stycos questioned what the Contingency Fund of \$120,000 is for. Mr. Strom stated that it was set up in case there were any major lawsuits or settlements, that money would be distributed from there.

Councilman Stycos asked if the Mayor could take money from that Contingency Account or any other account and give it to this project if this Resolution passes. Mr. Strom stated that he would rather not comment on that. Councilman Stycos asked for legal opinion regarding this question. Attorney Kirshenbaum stated that in terms of budgetary, he would have to take a look at the Charter. He can give an opinion on this after reviewing the Charter.

City Clerk stated that she thinks members of the City Council who are graduates of Cranston High School West should recuse from voting on this matter. Chair indicated that this Resolution is just asking the Administration to provide some support and not funding. Councilman Lanni agreed and stated that this is a simple request, it is not a demand. He also stated that at least this may get out to the general public and maybe more people would contribute. He suggested that since the Council President sponsored this Resolution, he can have a press release on this. Council President Farina stated that this is the purpose of this Resolution. It is to make this public and make more people aware of this. As to the statement made by the City Clerk in regards to Council members who are graduates of Cranston High School West recusing from voting on this matter, if he was a member of the Association, he would recuse, but he is a graduate and he will vote on this. Chair asked Attorney Kirshenbaum for legal opinion regarding this. Attorney Kirshenbaum stated that it is not a conflict for graduates of Cranston High School West to vote on this matter.

Councilman Stycos stated that the School Department has an \$800,000 deficit for the upcoming budget year. There are more important projects in the schools than this project.

Councilman Archetto stated that we are facing a 49 cents tax increase, \$800,000 deficit in the Schools and now some Council members are looking to increase that by another \$120,000 to \$140,000. This is an indirect appropriation.

Chair stated that there may be some non-monetary assistance that the City can give to this project.

Councilman Lanni questioned whether we bonded for school infrastructures. Mr. Strom stated that we bonded and that money becomes available in June or July. Councilman Lanni questioned whether we could tie that bond money into this project. Mr. Strom stated that he would not object to it, but we should have discussions with the School Department because they may have projects already planned for this bond money.

Mr. Strom stated that for the past few years, the School Department has put money aside on their own, monies for Capital improvements. He asked Mr. DiMaio if he has discussed this with the School Department. Mr. DiMaio stated that he did not specifically ask for funding from them.

Councilman Stycos stated that he asked at the School Budget hearing if they had money budgeted for the auditorium and he was told no.

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

City Clerk stated that in order to implement this, enabling legislation is needed. She also stated that she will be speaking to the vendor on the costs, but at this point, it is not something we can pursue.

Chair asked how long it's going to take for the vendor to do the digitizing. City Clerk stated that the vendor has stated to her, approximately 4-5 months onsite to scan all the documents. She also stated that she will report back in a few months on the status.

Chair asked for update at the July Finance meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees



CITY OF CRANSTON

Ex. # 1 Sub: 5-1-17

Finance Committee

By: David DiMaio

Re: Res. CH SW auditorium

The Falcon legacy shines bright!

The Cranston West Alumni Association, Inc. has raised \$100,000 to renovate the Cranston High School West Auditorium. With the help of our community, we are making so much progress. However, we still need your help to reach our goal of \$200,000. We are actively looking for seat sponsors, corporate sponsors, and grants to fund the renovation that will include new seats, carpet, and paint throughout.

The CWAA is offering you an opportunity to become a part of the high school's history and to support current and future Cranston High School West students.

Don't be left out! Seats will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Each of the 673 seats in the soon to be renovated auditorium will have an attractive plate mounted on the seat. You are invited to sponsor a seat and have your message displayed on the back. You may want to honor or memorialize a friend or relative, celebrate a reunion, or feature your business. Sponsoring a seat is a thoughtful gift for a graduation senior, birthday, holiday, or anniversary.

Please read the attached sheet or visit our website www.cranstonwestalumniassociation.org to learn how you can sponsor a seat in the soon to be renovated Cranston High School West Alumni Auditorium. If you have any questions please feel free to contact David C. DiMaio at (401) 588-1313. Karen Casale (401) 270-8049 kcasale@cpsed.net or Amy Ricci aricci48199@gmail.com

"Once a Falcon always a Falcon"

Sponsor Levels



Platinum Falcon

\$5,000.00

Sponsorship of one of the three areas listed below:

- The Back Right Handicap Seating Area.
- The Back Left Handicap Seating Area.
- The Back Center Video/Sound Board Area.

Sponsor will receive:

- Permanent signage in sponsored area.
- Permanent signage on all seats located the sponsored area.
- Web link located on the Cranston West Alumni Association web site.
- Email blast to all Cranston West Alumni Association Members.
- Banner recognition at dedication ceremony.
- Recognition in the dedication program book.



Gold Falcon

\$750.00

Sponsor will receive:

- A gold plaque with your personal message on the back of one of the front row seats. (Only 26 available)



Silver Falcon

\$500.00

Sponsor will receive:

- A silver plaque with your personal message on the back of one seat in rows 2 through 4. (Only 83 available)



Bronze Falcon

\$200.00

Sponsor will receive:

- A bronze plaque with your personal message on the back of one of the remaining seats. (Only 556 available)

(All seat assignments will be made on a first come first served basis.)



Auditorium Seat Sponsoring Project

Complete one form for each seat you wish to sponsor.

Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone and Email _____

Indicate the appropriate level of sponsorship:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Platinum Falcon
Back Sections | \$ 5000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Gold Falcon
Front Row Seats | \$ 750 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Silver Falcon
Rows 2 thru 4 | \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bronze Falcon
Remaining Seats | \$ 200 |

Engraving Information— limited to 2 lines 25 characters each

Name to be engraved on plate: _____

Year of Graduation or alternate information: _____

Check enclosed in the amount of \$ _____ payable to CWAA for _____ seats at \$ _____ each. This completed form must accompany payment. All donations will be promptly acknowledged and are tax deductible. (501 (c) (3) Tax ID 47-1576637)

Mail check and form to:
Cranston West Alumni Association
50 Preston Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

If you wish to pay by credit card, please visit our website www.cranstonwestalumniassociation.org and click on the Donations tab. Your credit card payment will be handled by PayPal.

Allan W. Fung
MAYOR



Lawrence DiBoni
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CITY HALL
869 PARK AVENUE
CRANSTON, RI 02910

Date: April 3, 2017

To: Mayor Allan W. Fung

cc: Robert Strom, Robert Coupe

From: Lawrence DiBoni, Peter Lapolla and Salvatore Saccoccio

Re: Yearly Update, Tax Incentives

Attached is the annual report for businesses participating in the tax incentive program in accordance with Ordinances 2013-41 (Commercial Five Year), 2011-11 (Commercial 10 Year), 2014-5 (Industrial Five Year), and 2011-13 (Industrial 10 Year). All businesses currently receiving the exemption are in compliance with the program.

Included in the report are: term, last year of exemption, assessed value, incentive amount, tax defeated, taxes generated and number of employees for each business.

Sincerely,

Lawrence DiBoni, Peter Lapolla and Salvatore Saccoccio

