

(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).

SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE – MAY 3, 2017
(BUDGET HEARINGS)

A special meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. 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
 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Finance Director
 Michael Igoe, City Controller
 Christopher Hallstrom, City Council Internal Auditor
 Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee

Council President Farina stated that over the past few weeks, a few of the Council members met to see if reductions could be made to the Budget to lower the proposed tax increase. Since then, the Council was advised that there was a change to State Aid for the Schools, where there was a cut to the City of Cranston, so the Council will be putting those funds into the School Department Budget.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to amend line item #101-1800-48500 of a reduction of \$858,024 on the Revenue side and line item #101-1800-59000 of a reduction of \$858,024 to restore funds to the Schools that State Aid cut. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Council President Farina, it was voted to amend line item #101-1102-52216 – Grant Writer – reduced by \$20,000. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Council President Farina, it was voted to amend line item #101-1300-54802 – Sidewalk Program – reduced by \$40,000.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos urged that this amendment not be passed because this program is less than a year old. Our sidewalks are in terrible conditions.

Councilman Paplauskas stated that while he agrees that the sidewalks are not in good condition, he feels the Schools need help and people have not utilized this program that much.

Councilman McAuley stated that while this is a good amendment, we also need good sidewalks for kids to get to school. He proposed amending this to \$25,000 and savings of \$25,000 there. He also stated that we are facing difficult decisions. Sidewalks are very important and so is education. In all fairness, a 50% reduction would be adequate.

Councilman Lanni stated that cutting funds from the sidewalk program is beneficial to the children in the City does not make sense to him.

Mr. Coupe asked that the Council keep in mind that this is a co-share sidewalk program for homeowners, regardless of the condition of the sidewalk in front of their home.

Mr. Strom stated that in the past ten months, we have reimbursed eight people totaling \$8,630 and we have not even reached \$10,000.

Motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Favicchio, Hopkins, Colford, Paplauskas and Council President Farina -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman McAuley -1.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Council President Farina, it was voted to amend line item #101-1305-54500 – Care of Trees - reduced by \$25,000. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Council President Farina, it was voted to amend line item #101-1306-54607 – Amnesty Program - reduced by \$25,000.

Under discussion:

Council President Farina stated that this is based on past history. There will still be two trash amnesty days. We are not accounting for increase in amnesty days.

Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Council President Farina, it was voted to amend line item #101-1305-54501 – Planting of Trees – reduced by \$10,000.

Under discussion:

Councilman Stycos stated that this is a shortsighted proposal. He urged members of the Committee not to support this.

Council President Farina stated that this is a good program, but it is a matter of “nice to have” versus “needs to have”.

Chair asked how much has been spent on this. Mr. Coupe stated that according to Mr. Strom, this year so far \$5,000 has been spent. We have not had that much participation from the public. Last year, we had extra trees left over and he believes they were planted at Park View Middle School.

Councilman McAuley asked that we leave at least \$5,000 in this line item.

Mr. Strom stated that we still have \$5,000 remaining from this Fiscal Year.

Mr. Coupe indicated that we wouldn't be able to keep that in this line item for next Fiscal Year. At the end of this Fiscal Year, the remainder would go into the General Fund.

Motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Favicchio, Hopkins, Colford, Paplauskas and Council President Farina -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman McAuley -1.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Council President Farina, it was voted to move \$120,000 from Contingency Fund to line item #101-1700-52110 and earmark it for the Schools, which makes total of \$240,000 for the Schools as of this time.

Under discussion:

Councilman Stycos questioned why not just give the \$240,000 to the Schools instead of placing it in this Fund. Chair stated that we do not know what the State is going to do. they may come through and fully fund the Schools.

Councilman Lanni stated that if the State comes through, he does not want to see this money going into the General Fund. We need to make sure this will be for the Schools.

Mr. Strom stated that the \$240,000 is targeted for the Schools. The Schools would have to come to the City and submit bills and we would give them the money up to \$240,000. The reason this money is not being put in the School Budget is because that becomes maintenance of effort.

Councilman Stycos stated that he would recommend that we amend the title to “Contingency Fund for Public Schools” because this is a gray area where it just states “Contingency Fund”.

Council President Farina indicated that if Councilman Stycos would like, the evening of the Budget Adoption, the Council can pass a Resolution stating that the City Council earmarked all money in the Contingency Fund to education.

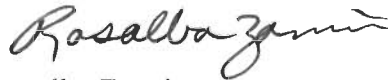
Motion passed unanimously.

Council President Farina stated that he is sure there will be more amendments made the evening of the Budget Adoption. In the next four days, the Council has to really ask tough questions. We are not done and there are a lot more difficult cuts to come.

Councilman Stycos stated that he plans to propose amendments to fund dog parks with the East Recreational Impact Fees for one at Beachmont and one at Calise Field at \$20,000 each and Western Cranston Recreational Impact Fees for the Ice Rink.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees



CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL 2018 BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

Michael J Farina, Council President
Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair Finance Committee
All hearings will be in Cranston City Hall, Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI

*Public comment and questions will be take prior to the department's presentation.
(Individual department capital budget projects will be heard on the department's budget date.)*

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

6:45 p.m. City Council Special meeting - Public Hearing on 2017-2018 Budget and related documents

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Budget hearings

Finance Department (Accounts & Control, Assessment, Contract & Purchase
Treasury & Tax Collection); Revenues
Information Technology
Community Development

Cranston Community Action Program (CCAP)
Municipal Court
Probate
City Council
City Clerk
Canvassing
Senior Services

Monday, April 10, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Building Inspections
Parks & Recreation
Hearing on City provided health insurance
Public Libraries

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 @ 7 p.m

Economic Development
Executive
Law Department
Insurance Claims & Risk Management
Personnel

Monday, April 17, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Fire Department & Fire Alarm
Police Department; Animal Control; Harbor Master

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Public Works Department
Highway Maintenance; Building Maintenance; Engineering; Fleet Maintenance;
Bureau of Traffic Safety; Refuse; Care of Trees
Sewer Enterprise Fund
*Ord. 03-17-1S in amend. of Title 13 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled
"Public Service" (2018 Sewer Rates)
Planning and Capital Budget (department projects will also be discussed on the department hearing dates)
Boards & Commissions

Thursday, April 27, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

School Department, School Health Insurance

Wednesday, May 3, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

Amendments

Monday, May 8, 2017 @ 7 p.m.

City Council – Adoption