

(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, September 18, 2017, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Absent: Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.

Also Present: Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
 Councilman Steven A. Stycos
 Robin Muksian, Director of Administration
 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 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 Hopkins, 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:

Dennis DeJesus of Special Olympics appeared to speak representing the family of Jeffrey Girard in favor of proposed Ordinance 8-17-01. He stated that to date, they have raised \$45,000. They are present this evening to ask the City Council for \$10,000 donation towards this project coming out of the Impact Fees.

Dot McDonough appeared to speak in favor of proposed Ordinance 8-17-01 and stated that the two high schools are doing fundraisers for this cause and any support from the City is greatly appreciated.

Ms. Muksian stated that the Administration is support of this Ordinance.

8-17-01 Ordinance Authorizing the City to Utilize Eastern Recreational Impact Fees for the Jeffrey S. Girard II Memorial Therapeutic Playground. Sponsored by Mayor Fung, Council President Farina, Council Vice President Favicchio and Councilman Hopkins.

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

Under Discussion:

Council President Farina stated that by doing this, we would be taking burden off the taxpayers and this would be a good way of memorializing someone from the City who well-deserve it because this is something the City would have to do.

Councilman Hopkins stated that he has been working with the group in the fundraising efforts and he had the privilege of knowing Jeffrey and this is a good way to honor him.

Councilman McAuley asked to be added as co-sponsor of this Ordinance.

Councilman Stycos stated that although this sounds like a good project, under the law, we would have to wait until the next Budget and quoted the section of the Charter.

Ms. Muksian stated that she believes that in the Capital Budget, there is a line item for playgrounds and there is a latitude for that.

Councilman Hopkins stated that the area where the proposed playground is going to be built is in such disrepair that it needs immediate attention. It is probably the biggest eyesore in Garden City.

Council Vice-President Favicchio asked how much it will cost for this playground. Mr. DeJesus stated \$59,234 in equipment and if none of the in-kind donations come through, they are looking at another \$20,000.

Ms. McDonough stated that the area is actually a hazard.

Council Vice-President Favicchio stated that this is a great project and it is a tremendous investment by the community for this.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman McDonough, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance and forward to the full City Council, which at that time, Mr. Strom and the Solicitor can address the concern stated by Councilman Stycos.

Under Discussion:

Attorney Kirshenbaum stated that this sounds like Mr. DeJesus is getting donations of equipment. It is not directing a playground in the Capital Budget. It is not like the City is building the playground.

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

8-17-02 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3.04 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue and Finance" (City Council Grant Writer). Sponsored by Council President Farina.

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

Under Discussion:

Council President Farina stated that in speaking with the City Clerk, there was nothing in the Code that codified Grant Writer, so he had this Ordinance drafted.

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

Tax Incentive Application for Reservoir Avenue Rentals LLC (Dean Denuccio).

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilman Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of this Tax Incentive Application.

Under Discussion:

Lawrence DiBoni, Director of Economic Development, appeared to speak.

Robert Murray, Esq., appeared to represent applicant and stated that current taxes are approximately \$45,000 and approximately \$35,000 in taxes of improvement will be phased-in over the next five years.

Dean Denuccio appeared to speak.

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

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

- **Tangible Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees