

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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 Paul J. McAuley

Also Present: Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
 Councilman Steven A. Stycos
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman McAuley, seconded by Councilman Colford, 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:

10-17-01 Ordinance ratifying the School Committee's Collective Bargaining Agreement with the National Association of Government Employees, Local RI-153, Custodian Unit (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020).

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

10-17-02 Ordinance ratifying the School Committee's Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO on behalf of Cranston Public School Employees, Local 2044, Secretary Unit (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020).

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

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

- **Tangible Tax Abatements**

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

- **Tax Assessment Board of Review**

Informational purposes only. No action needed.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

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

Administrative report on legal fees to date on the Guibeault litigation. Councilman Lanni.

Mr. Strom presented copies of legal bills referring to this case. He stated that total, to date, is \$362,865.91, which includes representation for former Major Ryan, former Colonel Palombo and former Major Schaffran.

Councilman Lanni stated that this lawsuit has been going on for four years. It seems like there is no end to this lawsuit. This is what concerns him. He stated that maybe we need another Executive Session to have the Administration try to explain what is going on with this lawsuit.

Solicitor Rawson stated that he would not be opposed to an Executive Session. He could have Attorney Cavanaugh, who represents the City, attend to update the Council. He also stated that there was an Executive Session with Attorney Cavanaugh approximately three or four months ago to inform the new Council members on this case. Part of the reason why this is taking so long is Ms. Guilbeault sued approximately ten entities and there are quite a few attorneys involved.

Discussion of computerization in City Hall

Council Vice-President Favicchio stated that Mr. Rosenfield is present and would like to make a presentation regarding this item.

Jay Rosenfield, owner of ClerkBase, appeared to speak and stated that a new program they have is “onboard solutions”, which allows municipalities to manage their Boards and Commissions. This program would also allow the public to apply online and attach resumes. Some of the things his company does are: historical projects; online live streaming of Council meetings; post agendas and minutes online.

Councilman Colford asked what the fee is for the onboard solutions. Mr. Rosenfield stated that the annual fee is \$2,800 and annual fee to ClerkBase and also the fee would depend on what the City would like.

Councilman Stycos asked what the Administration’s opinion is regarding this. Mr. Strom stated that this is something that he would like to explore. He would like Mr. Rosenfield to speak to the City’s IT Department as to what they offer and if we can incorporate that into our webpage and make it more user friendly.

Chair stated that he still would like to push for online recordings of land records because we are still so far behind other cities. He would like the Administration to see if this could be looked into. He also stated that he has seen Mr. Rosenfield’s demonstration and it is amazing that someone can pull up meetings of a particular item of a meeting.

Mr. Strom stated that he would like to see a list of other cities and towns that have Mr. Rosefield’s program implemented or is working with. Mr. Rosenfield stated that he will provide that information to Mr. Strom.

Chair stated that since the City Clerk is not present, this should be brought back in two months to review what the Clerk is doing with regards to the land evidence records and receive an update on this issue. Chair asked that this be placed on the January Finance Committee agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

Total Legal Fees to Date for Karen Guilbeault Law Suit as of 10/23/2017

Legal Bills

CITY OF CRANSTON
 Ex. # 1 Sub: 11-6-17
Finance Comm.
 By: Robert Strom
 Re: Legal Fees

St. Peter & Kasle

07/01/13 – 07/31/13	\$5,703.75
08/01/13 – 08/29/13	3,543.75
09/03/13 – 09/30/13	67.50
10/01/13 – 10/31/13	742.50
11/01/13 – 11/30/13	303.75
12/02/13 – 12/16/13	135.00
01/09/14 – 01/31/14	1,788.75
02/06/14 – 02/28/14	202.50
03/06/14 – 03/31/14	2,733.75
04/01/14 – 04/30/14	1,788.75
05/01/14 – 05/30/14	1,485.00
06/02/14 – 06/26/14	472.50
07/02/14 – 07/30/14	1,012.50
08/02/14 – 08/29/14	3,442.50
09/02/14 – 09/30/14	2,160.00
10/02/14 – 10/31/14	472.50
11/04/14 – 11/21/14	270.00
12/03/14 – 12/17/14	1,383.75
Total:	\$27,708.75

Blish & Cavanagh

12/02/14 – 06/29/15	\$41,968.02
08/05/15 – 06/30/16	21,542.61
08/15/16 – 10/13/16	6,945.00
11/18/16 – 05/05/17	28,643.74
07/01/17 – 10/23/17	14,363.68
Total:	\$113,463.05

Petrarca & McGair (Schaffron)

11/06/15 – 06/30/16	\$31,087.50
11/14/16 – 05/09/17	57,635.00
07/01/17 – 10/23/17	24,045.00
Total:	\$112,767.50

Adler Pollock & Sheehan (Palombo)

11/06/15 – 06/30/16	\$10,796.94
07/01/16 – 10/31/16	8,309.86
11/22/16 – 06/26/17	12,391.59
07/01/17 – 10/23/17	10,354.22
Total:	\$41,852.61

Anthony M. Traini (Ryan)

08/05/15 – 10/31/16	\$11,125.00
11/15/16 – 04/06/17	20,400.00
Total:	\$31,525.00

William J. Conley, Jr. (Antonucci)

08/05/16 – 12/14/16	\$2,925.00
01/18/17 – 05/09/17	12,447.50
07/01/17 – 10/23/17	20,176.50
Total:	\$35,549.00

Total: \$362,865.91