

(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 1, 2019, 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 Councilmember Paul J. McAuley
 Councilmember John P. Donegan
 Councilmember Edward J. Brady
 Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
 Councilmember Christopher G. Paplauskas
 Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair
 Council President Michael J Farina

Also Present: Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas (left meeting at 9:30 p.m.)
 Councilmember Steven A. Stycos
 John Psilopoulos, Deputy Director of Administration
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 David Dimaio, City Council Auditor/Budget Analyst
 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 Councilmember 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/COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Land Records on line access. Status update.*

City Clerk stated that the program has been designed and is in queue for implementation.

Director Strom stated that the Purchasing Agent will be meeting with Ambient Sound this week.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

- *Video streaming RFP –Administration Status update*

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

1-19-03 *Ord. in amend. of Title 2, Chapter 2.04 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Mayor and City Council” (Filming Meetings). Sponsored by Council Member Donegan. Tabled 2/4/2019 and 3/4/2019.*

Chair suggested keeping this Ordinance on the table with no action.

Council President Farina stated that to pass this Ordinance this evening is like putting the cart before the horse. We do not have equipment or software yet.

Councilmember Donegan stated that what he was told was that the initial quote that went out for RFP was strictly for the Council meetings. City Clerk stated that the quote of \$35,000 is for the hardware. There is a separate quote of \$8,000 for 12 meetings that has to do with video streaming, which would be just for Council meetings.

Councilmember Donegan withdrew this Ordinance.

2-19-02 *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2.08.260 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Administration and Personnel” (Board of Canvassers). Sponsored by Councilmembers Stycos and Paplauskas. Continued 3/4/2019.*

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to continue this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council President Farina stated that the Registrar has asked that this be continued for one more month.

Nicholas Lima, City Registrar, appeared to speak and stated that he conducted a salary survey and Cranston, being the second largest City in the State, is one of the lowest paid Canvassing Board in the State.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Ordinance and motion passed unanimously.

2-19-04 ***Ordinance in amendment of Title 9 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Public Peace, Morals and Welfare" (New Residents Packet). Sponsored by Councilmember Donegan. Continued 3/4/2019. Co-Sponsored: Councilmember McAuley.***

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

Under Discussion:

Deputy Director Psilopoulos stated that the Administration supports this idea as long as it is going to be online. We have a new website budgeted in the Mayor's proposed budget.

Council President Farina stated that this Ordinance could be amended to make this new resident packets virtual rather than paper packets.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember McAuley, it was voted to forward this Ordinance to the full City Council to be amended to make the packets virtual.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Stycos stated that the people who need this information, most won't get it because it is online.

Council President Farina stated that he agrees that not everyone will get this information, it would be up to us to market that online program.

Mr. Lima stated that he met with Library Director Garcia and Director Parrillo and Director Garcia agrees to host the welcome portal at the Library web until the City web is up and running.

Roll call was taken on motion to forward this Ordinance to the full City Council and motion passed unanimously.

Administrative report on status of teleprompter for Council Chambers. Continued 3/4/2019. Councilmember Stycos

No discussion.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution Encouraging United States President Donald J. Trump and the United States Congress to Fund 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Sponsored by Councilmembers Donegan, and Vargas.

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

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to amend this Resolution as follows: line #54, add “Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved That, upon adoption, a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Rhode Island Senatorial Delegation”.

Under Discussion:

Councilmembers Brady, Hopkins, Paplauskas, McAuley, Council Vice-President Favicchio and Council President Farina asked to be added as co-sponsors.

Public Speakers:

Katelyn Blankenship, 42 Lark Ave., appeared to speak in favor of this Resolution and stated that she is a product of 21st Century Program.

April Barron, 3 Welfare Ave., appeared to speak in favor of this Resolution.

Ariana Craigan appeared to speak in favor of this Resolution.

School Superintendent Jeannine Nota-Masse appeared to speak in favor of this Resolution and stated that this program is very valuable to families and students in Cranston.

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

Resolution approving the School District Five Year Master Plan. Sponsored by Council President Farina.

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

Under Discussion:

Superintendent Nota-Masse addressed the 5 Year Master Plan and explained how they came up with this Plan. They are asking the City Council for approval of this Plan so they can move onto the next process with the State Department of Education. This will go to the Department of Education for final approval and next year at this time they will start with the bonding process. The 5 year project would be \$133 million.

Council President Farina asked what the impact as a debt service to the taxpayers would be of the \$120 million bond. Director Strom stated that as to the reimbursement, he believes that the State has an upfront pay as you go. As to the question from Council President Farina, he stated that he can take a look at that, but you have to take into consideration other components.

Councilmember Vargas asked if any schools are being closed as part of the 5 Year Master Plan. Superintendent Nota-Masse stated that if they are able to expand Garden City and make it a bigger school, potentially, they could close Waterman. In the Plan, they are planning to expand Garden City. She indicated that none of this in the Plan is written in stone.

Councilmember Paplauskas asked to be added as co-sponsor of this Resolution.

Councilmember Donegan asked what the Administration's opinion is regarding this. Director Strom stated that, based on discussions with the School Department, the Administration does support it, it just depends on how we are going to fund it.

Councilmember Stycos stated that, to him, we need to figure the interest cost for this 5 year project.

Director Strom stated that the \$133 million is for principal and interest over 25 year period.

Superintendent Nota-Masse stated that at this time next year, they will be at the stage to really plan on the bond.

Councilmember Stycos stated that he would like to be provided with a copy of the population estimates that was done.

Council President Farina thanked Superintendent Nota-Masse, school Committee and staff of School Administration who were instrumental in developing this report.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution 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 Councilmember McAuley, 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 Councilmember McAuley, 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 Councilmember McAuley, 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 Councilmember McAuley, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee