

REGULAR MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-APRIL 28, 2003-

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cranston was held on Monday, April 28, 2003.

The meeting was called to order in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at 7:10 P.M. by the Council President.

Roll Call showed the following members present: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –9.

Also Present: Mayor Stephen P. Laffey; Paul Grimes, Director of Administration; Robin Muksian-Schutt, Deputy Director of Administration; Jametta Alston, City Solicitor; Jerome Baron, Director of Finance; Mike Igoe, City Controller; Pat Quinlan, City Council Counsel.

Minutes of the last meeting were dispensed with and stand approved as recorded.

Council President welcomed Mayor Laffey, School Committee Member Anthony Lupino, and Steven Angell, Chairman of the Financial Review Board.

I. PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS

No Business.

II. INTRODUCTION OF UNDOCKETED RESOLUTIONS

No Business.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

“APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD DEGRANDPRE AS TREE WARDEN.”

On motion by Councilwoman O’Hara, seconded by Councilman Fung, it was voted to appoint Richard DeGrandpre as Tree Warden. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –9.

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“REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON PENSION THOMAS J. MARTIN, CRANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.”

Colonel Chalek appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilwoman McFarland, seconded by Councilwoman O’Hara, it was voted to approve this request. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –9.

“REQUEST TO BE PLACED ON DISABILITY PENSION SEAN BAXTER, AND KENNETH CODY, CRANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.”

Colonel Chalek appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Ferolito, seconded by Councilman McDonough, it was voted to approve the above two requests. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –9.

SCITUATE AVENUE SCHOOL

Mayor Laffey appeared to address the Council relative to the new school under construction on Scituate Ave. He stated that a school bond issue was approved in 1994 and it was believed there was 2.5 million left that we were going to be using some of the money for the new school. Bond balances now reveal that there is no money left in 1994 bond, and negative balances were found in other bond accounts. There is no money left in the 1994 bond. He suggested the following: roll the February notes coming due on July 17 into a 20-year bonds. Wants to take properly to the voters, has contacted the Board of Canvassing to take this to the voters for a vote on a bond so this school can be finished.

Councilwoman O’Hara stated that it was common knowledge that the design for the new school and the size would far exceed the bond money that was approved by the voters. The major problem was the design, scope of school exceeded the approved bond money. Councilwoman O’Hara questioned the fact that if a bond was approved in 1994 for the new school and it was not used for the new school, then what happened to that money? She also stated that there is an Ordinance on the books that bond money can only be spent on what voters authorized. It is news to this Council that the School Department was planning to draw on a previous bond for the new school. Mayor Laffey stated after weeks of exhaustive research by Mr. Baron, it was discovered that there is no money left in that account. Mayor stated that it was widely reported that some of 1996 and some of 1994 money would be used for the new school. Whether school is too big, is too late now He does not know who decided there was enough money for building.

Councilwoman McFarland stated that in August when Councilman Jackvony served on the Board of Contract and Purchase as a constituent, there were change orders that went before that Board. She was concerned that there were not enough funds at that time. She asked Mr. Baron to go back and look at these change orders. She also asked Mr. Angell what analysis the Financial Review Board did to approve the change orders that went before the Financial Review Board and what bonds were those coming out of. Mr. Angell stated that the change orders were placed on the Agenda per the request of the School Department. Councilwoman McFarland asked what analysis was used in approval. Mr. Angell stated that the Board was presented with the information the night of its’ meeting as to the scope of the requests, and relied on representation made at the meeting as to where the money was coming from.

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Council President Pastore stated he had informed Mr. Baron during the interview process of concern with capital balances. Councilwoman McFarland stated that if we had done a six month audit, we would have had a much better handle of where we stand with our bonds. Mr. Angell stated that a six month audit would not have discovered the systemic problem. Councilwoman McFarland stated that the School Department has been given too much power, and that everyone should be commended for their work to date in discovering this problem.

Councilman Fung asked Mr. Angell what type of resources would be available from the State to help address the systemic problem either by way of audits or forensic audits and if there was any wrongdoing, since there is an Ordinance restricting the use, and if needed, referred to the police or state police. Mr. Angell stated that one question that needs to be answered is "why have we exhausted the money on these bonds". One of the problems is the way School Buildings Committee, half way between School Committee and City Council. The Council approves the funding and there is a lot of discussion that goes on but not all parties involved, that process needs to be changed. This problem is not only in Cranston and may be an opportunity for Cranston to break new ground.

Councilman McDonough Mr. Grimes what the process is now to address the situation. Ms. Alston responded that we introduce loan orders, which the Council would have to hold a special meeting. If Ordinance approving loan order is passed, the matter would be forwarded to the Board of Canvassers and they would have to have a special meeting. Once the referendum is approved, it will be sent to the Secretary of State. Fifty days must pass before a special election can be held. We would be looking at between June 20-27 for a special election. This would be placed before the voters to be approved.

Council President Pastore stated that he and the Mayor met with the School Committee and School Department regarding this issue. Council President felt that before going out to bond there needs to be an independent third party to confirm final cost of the project so there isn't a short fall in bond money. Further research also needs to be done on impact fees. School Committee member Eramian stated that they would take this under advisement.

Mr. Angell stated perhaps we should go back to the Providence Water Supply Board and discuss the possibility of doing the pumping station that would service the entire area. Council President asked that Joseph Balducci, School Business Administrator, check with other cities and towns to see how other municipalities do things.

Council President passed the gavel to Council Vice-President O'Hara.

Mr. Baron suggested that we ask for the bonding authority to correct the Scituate Ave. school and reduce current bonding by like amount so that City's overall bonding doesn't increase. Mr. Baron explained that projects were paid out of the general fund. When the bonds were issued, the general fund was paid back. While we do not have any money, we do have \$17 million in bonding authority and millions of dollars in the school department that could be used, but not set up for that purpose and that is what is creating part of the problem. The process will be changed, the General Fund will not be advancing cash.

Councilman McDonough asked if we have the funding for a special election at this point. Mr. Baron stated that we do not have any choice, the money has to be spent, it will cost approximately \$30,000.

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Councilwoman McFarland questioned if renovations to older schools will be put on hold in order to fund for the new school. She asked that Mr. Baron submit the information he found when he found out about this problem with the bond money, to the Clerk's Office for copies to be supplied to the Council members.

Councilman Jackvony inquired regarding the two bonds. Mr. Baron explained that there were two bonds issued, 94-3 and 94-27 issued in November, 1999. The first bond was for \$2,693,000 and the second was for \$4,555,000. These were for school renovations or construction of new school. 94-22 could be used for new school.

Council President Pastore asked if technology money was used for the new school. Mr. Baron stated there was money borrowed, but not through this authority, and that is not a permissible use.

Council President Pastore asked if Cayer Prescott was contacted regarding this. Mr. Baron stated that this would not be in their scope of work. This would be a specialized type of audit. Scope would be specifically for this project. Council President Pastore stated that going back to 1990's, they came across some irreconcilable balances that had to be written off. They may be a ground force to confer with. He asked that they be contacted.

Council President Pastore asked Administration to notify the School Department that this Council would like to have an independent firm evaluate what the final costs of the project will be, we need to finalize costs before asking for bonding authority.

Councilwoman Fogarty questioned Mr. Angell regarding the statement he made earlier that he knew about this problem last week, and the Mayor stated just discovered tonight. Mr. Angell stated that he started thinking about this problem when the change orders came through, they had several underlying presumptions. He met with the Mayor this weekend.

Councilwoman O'Hara stated that if voters approved money for new school in 1996, how is it appropriate to use 1994 funds for new construction? Mr. Baron stated that new construction was allowed. Councilwoman O'Hara inquired if the voters were informed of this.

Councilwoman McFarland stated that there have been a number of requests made tonight and the Council is in the budget process. She reiterated the requests: a special election, construction cost breakdown and forensic audit. These will become a costly proposition and she asked that the Administration provide what line items in the budget these would come from before the budget is approved.

Council President Pastore stated that, priority wise, School Committee should have an independent architect come up with a final cost and Mr. Schiappa should review the final requisition cost. This should be done immediately before it goes to the voters. Relative to the water issue, we could tap into the Water Impact Fees or other school expenditures to keep the project moving along. Ms. Alston stated that the impact fees cannot be used in the matter that Council President suggests. Funds we collect go to the Providence Water Supply Board and these are their funds. Council President Pastore stated that since there is money there, that could be used for the pumping stations, we should broach the possibility with the Water Board.

Councilman Lanni asked who has access to borrow money. Ms. Alston stated, the City. Pursuant to the Charter, the School Buildings Committee determines the scope of the project. It is then given to the City to build and once it is built, it is given back to the School Buildings Committee. Councilman Lanni asked if all projects approved by the School Buildings Committee have to be approved by the Board of Contract and Purchase. Ms. Alston stated, yes.

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Mr. Baron stated that the money was apparently spent before the bonds were issued. Councilman Ferolito stated, that given so, we should address this as quickly as possible.

Mayor Laffey agrees with Councilwoman McFarland that the City needs to take back some control. All shenanigans going on are going to stop. He stated that this is why he has been asking for a forensic audit, because a regular audit would not find this sort of problem.

Council President Pastore stated that it is important for Mr. Sciappa to work with the School Department. The City needs to go over cash flow balances.

Mr. Igoe discussed the balance and income sheet and debt. He stated year to date revenue collected through March 31 is \$135 million, which is at 72.4% of revenues; to date, tax revenue appears to be on target at 80.53%; abatements are over-budgeted by approximately \$159,000. Collection rate is at 96.9%. Council President Pastore asked for the collection rate is for current and previous three fiscal years for the next meeting. Mr. Igoe stated that in total, the City has spent as of March 31, 65.3% of the current budget. There is no major variance in the balance sheet or income statement.

Council President Pastore stated that we have \$2.1 million in monies put aside for impact fees. He asked that Mr. Igoe send the impact fee information to the Council Members.

IV. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Pastore stated that it would be a nice gesture if the Council and Administration could put forward for the next Council meeting, a Proclamation honoring a 98-year old former Council member, who served in the 1950's from Ward 3.

V. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman McDonough asked if there has been any thought in moving Municipal Court from the Police Station. This is a subject that has come up. Mr. Grimes stated that the Administration is looking at this possibility but no decisions have been made yet. Councilwoman McFarland asked that the Administration keep in mind the parking issues and handicapped accessibility be taken into consideration.

Councilwoman McFarland asked for draft of RFP for the privatization of the Senior Center and Animal Shelter and possibly bring these two departments before the Finance Committee Budget Hearings. She stated that since she has received notice that the RIDE contract was not approved and this program is lost, she presented a petition to the Chair of the Finance Committee regarding the proposed cuts.

Council President Pastore stated that he had asked previously from the Administration for quarterly update of legal expenses. City Clerk stated that she has the documents in her Office and will obtain them for the Council members.

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VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Anthony Lupino appeared to speak as a public member and School Committee member. He stated that when the new school opens, it will open with three classrooms per grade. Size of the school does not impact the cost. Since he has been on the School Committee, bond balances have always been an issue. This has been an agenda item on the School Committee. They did meet with the former Finance Director and Purchasing Agent and were told that there were balances left. The School Department did not spend the money. It is still a City building. As far as the water issue, when bid went out and were received, the water portion was removed. He does not know why it was taken out.

Aram Garabedian appeared to speak and stated that one of the areas our audit does not address is Capital Facilities Impact Fees. The City Council has the power to dedicate impact funds wherever they would like. He recommended that all funds listed, that have not been fully audited, be reviewed by the Audit Committee to find out where the money is and has it been spent properly and what balances actually exist. Councilwoman O'Hara stated that she is in the process of meeting with the Auditor General in having an orientation.

Albert Benetti, 24 Concord Ave., appeared to speak in favor of Ordinance 3-03-1. He also stated that we have to find out what actually happened to the bond money and if possible go after the people that were responsible. Mr. Baron re-clarified that the 1994 bond issue was spent in November, 1999. Ms. Alston stated that the Administration in 1999 did not follow Section 6.14 of the Charter. Mr. Benetti stated that he did not hear from the Council tonight if there will be any legal proceedings. Council President Pastore stated that we have to do the forensic mathematics first.

Thomas Ricci, 75 Knight St., appeared to speak regarding Ordinance 3-03-1. He stated that this property is not centrally located. He asked the Council look into another piece of property more suitable, like along Route 37 near the Highway Garage.

Anthony Lupino appeared to speak and asked Mr. Grimes who removed the water issue from the contract. Mr. Grimes stated that it was a member from the Public Works Department.

Discussion took place on the expenditures incurred from legal services question asked by Council President Pastore earlier. Council President Pastore stated that the information Ms. Alston provided is not quite specific. He asked Mr. Quinlan to detail this. Mr. Quinlan quoted Section 15.05 of the Charter and stated that Council President Pastore has requested the following: the terms of the contract, including payment arrangements and fee agreements. Ms. Alston stated that the only signed contract she has in her files from the previous Administration is of Adler Pollock. Council President Pastore stated that going forward, the Council is looking for what Mr. Quinlan stated. Ms. Alston stated that no attorneys are hired in general. The bond work and union contracts was from the previous Administration and contracts are being finalized. This process should be done within the next three months.

Council Member Fogarty asked for breakdown by case of whatever legal work the legal counsel is doing. Ms. Alston stated that that is something being worked on and hopefully will be done within the next three months.

VII. UNDOCKETED RESOLUTIONS

No Business.

VIII. DOCKETED RESOLUTIONS

No Business.

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**IX. REPORT OF COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCE**

3-03-1 “ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TERMINATE THE PURCHASE AND SALES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CRANSTON AND CRANSTON PRINT WORKS FOR THE SITE OF A MUNICIPAL POLICE STATION/HEADQUARTERS.”

On motion by Councilwoman McFarland, seconded by Councilman Ferolito, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 7-1 with 1 abstention. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilmen Ferolito, McDonough and Council President Pastore–7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman McFarland –1. Councilman Lanni abstained.

3-03-2 “ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON, 1970, ENTITLED ‘ADMINISTRATION’. (Board of Contract and Purchase).

On motion by Councilwoman McFarland, seconded by Council Member Fogarty, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilman Fung, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Jackvony and Ferolito –2.

Council President Pastore appointed Colleen Crudele as Chair.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX ABATEMENTS – RECOMMENDED BY CITY ASSESSOR (REAL ESTATE ABATEMENTS).”

On motion by Councilwoman O’Hara, seconded by Councilman Ferolito, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –8. Councilwoman McFarland was not present for roll call.

“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX ABATEMENTS – RECOMMENDED BY CITY ASSESSOR (MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENTS).”

On motion by Councilwoman O’Hara, seconded by Councilman Ferolito, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –8. Councilwoman McFarland was not present for roll call.

“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HOMESTEAD ABATEMENTS–RECOMMENDED BY CITY ASSESSOR.”

On motion by Councilwoman O’Hara, seconded by Councilman McDonough, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –8. Councilwoman McFarland was not present for roll call.

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**“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL ABATEMENTS-
RECOMMENDED BY CITY ASSESSOR.”**

On motion by Councilwoman O’Hara, seconded by Councilman McDonough, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –8. Councilwoman McFarland was not present for roll call.

“TAX INTEREST WAIVER LIST.”

On motion by Councilwoman O’Hara, seconded by Councilman McDonough, it was voted to approve this list. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –8. Councilwoman McFarland was not present for roll call.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

**“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF
EAST JOSEPHINE ST.”**

On motion by Councilman McDonough, seconded by Councilman Ferolito, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O’Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –9.

X. ELECTION OF CITY OFFICIALS

No Business.

XI. REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

No Business.

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XII. NEW BUSINESS

On motion by Councilwoman McFarland, seconded by Councilman Fung, the following introduced Ordinances be advertised for hearing before the Ordinance Committee on THURSDAY, MAY 15 13, 2003 at 7 PM pursuant to Sec. 3.12 of the Charter on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O'Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore -9.

- 4-03-1 Ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Fire Department." ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-2 Ordinance amending Chapter 24 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Police Department." ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-3 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Administration" (Tax Classification). FINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-4 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Administration" (Homestead Exemptions). FINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-5 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Administration" (Elderly Exemptions). FINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-6 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Administration" (Veterans Exemptions). FINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-7 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Administration" (POW Exemptions). FINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-8 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Administration" (Blind Exemptions). FINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-9 Ordinance establishing qualifications for all bidders for construction projects issued by the City of Cranston. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-10 Ordinance naming the new Elementary School in Western Cranston "Orchard Farms Elementary." ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-11 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 16C of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Motor Vehicle Repair Business." SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE 5/5/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-12 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic", "Same-Sundays only between 7:00 AM and 1:00 PM" by deleting Grant Ave., portion of and by adding Reserved. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-13 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic", "by adding new sub-section 46.2 entitled "Same-Sundays only between 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM Sundays, no vehicle shall remain for any period of time within or upon any of the following streets: Grant Ave., portion of, Lincoln Ave., portion of. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-14 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Administration" (Authorized Usage of Municipal Vehicles). ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.
- 4-03-15 Ordinance rescinding Ordinance No. 2000-11. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 5/15/2003.

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On motion by Councilwoman McFarland, seconded by Councilman McDonough, the following introduced Ordinances be advertised for hearing before the Ordinance Committee on THURSDAY, June 12, 2003 at 7 PM pursuant to Sec. 3.12 of the Charter on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Councilwoman O'Hara, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Ferolito, Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –9.

- 4-03-16 Ordinance amending Chapter 30-18 of the Code of the City of Cranston, entitled "Zoning-Specific Performance Standards." CITY PLAN COMMISSION 6/3/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 6/12/2003.
- 4-03-17 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 30 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Zoning" (Signage). CITY PLAN COMMISSION 6/3/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 6/12/2003.
- 4-03-18 Ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan of 1992 (Independence Way/Plainfield Pike). CITY PLAN COMMISSION 6/3/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 6/12/2003.
- 4-03-19 Ordinance amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 1970, entitled "Zoning" (Independence Way/Plainfield Pike). CITY PLAN COMMISSION 6/3/2003 and ORDINANCE COMMITTEE 6/12/2003.

TAX INCENTIVE APPLICATION FOR ADAMS & O'BRIEN REALTY, LLC., 66 Stamp Farm Rd. This will be re-introduced at the June 23, 2003 Council Meeting, since the application date is 2000 and the Ordinance has expired.

Council President Pastore asked why the Homestead Exemption is being stricken via Ordinance Code. Mr. Grimes stated that this is in anticipation of the Tax Classification legislation being proposed before the General Assembly. If the General Assembly does not pass the Act, we would not be able to enact this Ordinance. Councilwoman McFarland stated that there is no Ordinance being introduced for disabled, which she was under the understanding with the Administration, that this would be introduced tonight. Mr. Grimes stated that he would have to refer to the City Assessor. He stated that in the future, if the Council wishes a bill to be drafted, they could do it themselves or notify the City Solicitor and she will draft it for them. Councilwoman McFarland stated she had asked the Solicitor to draft this legislation for introduction.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ON CLERK'S DESK

No Business.

XIV. PUBLIC HEARINGS ON UNDOCKETED ITEMS

Albert Benetti, 24 Concord Ave., appeared to speak and asked who the members of the Ordinance Committee are. He stated that at the last Ordinance Committee meeting, most of the members of the Council were present and Councilman Lanni stated that since there was an overflow in the Chamber, he wished to give up his seat to a retired firefighter, who was a member of the public. He stated that if Councilman Lanni wished to give up his chair, fine, but not allow public to take a seat of an elected official. He feels this was inappropriate. Councilman Lanni stated that he did not direct anyone in particular to sit in his seat, he just gave up his chair to anyone who wanted to sit down. Councilman Jackvony stated that the Chair of the Ordinance Committee should not have made a decision herself of allowing the public behind the rail. Council President Pastore stated that the Council Rules state who sits behind the rail. The Chair is the one responsible for allowing the public behind the rail.

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Aram Garabedian appeared to speak and stated that if you, the Council, thinks there is an item on the agenda that is going to attract a large crowd and you want to move the meeting, you need to check the Open Meetings Law.

Council President cited Section 21 of the Council Rules.

Thomas Ricci, 75 Knight St., appeared to speak and stated that the night of the last Ordinance Committee meeting, there were people in the doorway, in the aisles standing and asked how was this not in violation of the fire code? Councilwoman McFarland stated that the Fire Marshall makes the determination and she checked with the city Attorney and they decided to allow the public behind the rail.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Maria Medeiros Wall
City Clerk

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

(See Stenographic Notes of Ron Ronzio, Stenotypists)