

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, April 14, 2008 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Terence Livingston, Chair
Council Vice-President Paula McFarland, Vice-Chair (appeared at 6:40 P.M.)
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro (appeared at 6:40 P.M.)
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Ernest Carlucci, Director of Administration
Frank Migliorelli, Deputy Director of Administration
Vito Sciolto, City Solicitor
Aubrey Lombardo, Assistant City Solicitor
Corsino Delgado, Finance Director
Donald Gray, City Treasurer
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council President Garabedian, 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:

Property Tax Write-Offs – Rossi Law Office (Cont. from 2/14/2008)

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council President Garabedian, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

5-07-5 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 100 of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance” (Tax Deferment Program). (Continued from 7/12/2007; no action on 1/17/2008; Cont. 2/14/2008 and 3/13/2008).

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

Reconsideration of the following tax interest waivers:

- **Elizabeth Hobby** – denied at the March 13th Finance Committee meeting and by City Council vote on March 24th.

Chair stated that he spoke to Ms. Hobby and his understanding is she had a very trying year last year and she never missed a tax payment in the past. He asked that the Committee reconsider the March 24th denial and approve the interest waiver.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council President Garabedian, it was voted to reconsider the denial and approve the interest waiver. Motion passed unanimously.

- **William & Debra Arrighie** – tax interest waiver approval for 50% at the March 13th Finance Committee meeting and by the Council on March 24th.

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council President Garabedian, it was voted to continue this item and ask that the taxpayer appear at the next meeting.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to reconsider the vote for Mr. & Mrs. Arrighie. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that Mr. & Mrs. Arrighie are in a hardship and she asked that the Committee approve the additional \$80.00.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to approve waiver of the additional \$80.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Performance Audit of School Department

Mr. Woerner stated that next year, the School Department will be over-budget by approximately \$7.5 million higher than what the Mayor proposed. Looking at their books, in the best interest of the City, we need to do a performance audit. He has requested a copy of the audit that was done this fall on the current year's budget and was advised that he could not be provided with it since it is work product because it was requested by the School Department attorney. Chair asked for Solicitor's opinion. Mr. Sciolto asked that Mr. Woerner send him an e-mail regarding this and he will follow up with the Council.

Discussion took place on the presentation made at the last Committee meeting by the Education Partnership. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that we have a State agency that we pay millions of dollars to, who should be able to provide these services to municipalities.

Chair asked Mr. Woerner to follow up on this.

On motion by Councilman Navarro, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to continue this item for legal opinion on the release of the 2007 audit. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Nicholas Morelli, 60 Nichols St., appeared to speak and stated that he is being charged interest on his taxes, when he never received a tax bill. The tax bill was sent to a mortgage company that he never had anything do to with. He asked that this interest be waived.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to override the City Treasurer's denial of the tax interest for the full amount. Motion passed unanimously.

3-08-1 Ordinance transferring appropriations and amending the budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 for the purchase of one 2008 Class 1, Type III rescue truck. *The public hearing for this Ordinance will be held by the Full Council on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 7 p.m.*

Public hearing and vote will be held by the full City Council on April 28, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Auditor's compensation/benefits

Council President Garabedian had requested that this be placed on the agenda based on a letter sent by Mr. Carlucci. Mr. Sciolto stated that this matter should be discussed in Executive Session.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to go into Executive Session at 7:00 P.M .pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2). Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 7:25 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Real Estate/Tangible Tax Abatements

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Real Estate Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Real Estate Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions for taxes assessed December 31, 2006 (Informational Only)

No action needed.

Tax Interest Waiver Denials

Mr. Gray appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to recommend approval of the Tax Interest Waiver Denials except for Nicholas Morelli. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Interest Waiver Approvals

Mr. Gray appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to recommend approval of the Tax Interest Waiver Approvals. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni

