

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, April 16, 2009 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

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

Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro, Chair (appeared at 6:45 P.M.)  
Councilman Mario Aceto, Vice-Chair  
Councilman Paul H. Archetto (appeared at 6:42 P.M.)  
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino  
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Councilman Terence Livingston

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.  
Councilman Robert J. Pelletier  
Councilwoman Michelle Bergin-Andrews  
Mayor Allan W. Fung  
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration  
Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration  
Michael Glucksman, Assistant City Solicitor  
Robert Strom, Director of Finance  
David Capuano, City Treasurer  
Joseph Morris, Tax Revenue Agent  
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor  
Pat Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Council President Lanni, 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:**

- **Ordinance 3-09-1S Ratifying the IBPO Local Union 301 Collective Bargaining Agreement**  
(FY 2008-2011) (Tabled March 16, 2009).

This item was taken up at the end of the meeting by unanimous consent of the Committee.

- **Snow Removal budget - Continued for overtime summary report from Administration & Report from Steve Woerner**

**Chair** asked what the total overage on the snow plow is. Mr. Strom stated, average of \$557,000.

**Councilman Aceto** asked if there is any money on the Reserve Account for snow removal. Mr. Strom stated \$266,000. Councilman Aceto asked, traditionally, how much we have been putting in the Reserve Fund. Mr. Strom stated that there is not a set amount.

## **PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS**

- **Real Estate/Tangible Tax Abatements**
- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**
- **Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions due to Taxes Assessed December 31, 2007 (informational only)**

No action needed.

- **Report from Treasurer of Tax Interest Waivers**

**Council President Lanni** stated that there are two denials which he would like an explanation for:

- 17 Fletcher Ave. – Mr. Morris stated that it is within the Committee's discretion if they would like to approve this request. The decision was based upon past records.
- Salvatore Pereschino – Council President Lanni stated that at the last meeting, the Committee requested follow-up information regarding this request. He asked if this information is included as part of the packet provided to the Committee by the City Treasurer. Mr. Morris stated that the information is included in the packet.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to approve this list of interest waiver requests as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Interest Waiver Request of Salvatore Pereschino  
(referred back from 3/23/2009 City Council)**

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to approve the interest waiver request of Salvatore Pereschino. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Budlong Pool - Administration's report requested by Councilman Navarro**

**Ms. Schutt** stated that the Administration is seeking some private funding.

**Council President Lanni** asked if we have looked at using CDBG money. Ms. Schutt stated that we cannot use rates for out of City people. We have also looked at stimulus money, but it cannot be used for community pools. The hours of the pool will be shortened. She presented a memo to the Committee.

- **3-09-1 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 3.04.100 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue & Finance" (Independent Audit).**

**Mr. Strom** appeared to speak. No one appeared to oppose.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution in Support of H5883 Regarding Maintenance of Town Highways**

**Chair** requested that the Administration provide a plan that is being implemented regarding the deficit of the current budget. A line item of current up to date regarding revenues and expenditures. Ms. Schutt stated that every month at the end of the month, the Council receives financials. Mayor Fung stated that the plan was the same as what he outlined in the State of the City address that he gave.

- **Ordinance 3-09-1S Ratifying the IBPO Local Union 301 Collective Bargaining Agreement  
(FY 2008-2011) (Tabled March 16, 2009).**

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to remove this Ordinance from the table. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Council Vice-President Livingston, it was voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation and all members of the City Council, even though they are not members of the Committee, be allowed in Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 7:05 P.M.

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

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 7:55 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Speakers:**

**Steven Antonucci**, 60 Pine Ridge Dr., President of Local 301, appeared to speak and stated that this contract is a working document since this Union started negotiating with former Mayor Napolitano in April, 2008. The raise that the Union is proposing to give up is not a deferral. This is real money that they are not going to get. The Union is also willing to waive vacation buyback 2008-2010 in the amount of \$110,000. This is also not a deferral. They have binding arbitration and if they go to arbitration, the Union will prove that the City has the means to pay, but there is nothing budgeted for arbitration so this is an expense for the City, which is not budgeted. Equipment clothing allowance is also not a deferral. This is a very decent proposal of negotiations making sure there are no layoffs. It is very fair. Mr. Antonucci stated that there is approximately \$2 million in savings and he urged the Committee to pass this agreement.

**Aram Garabedian**, 173 Belvedere Dr., appeared to speak and stated that the average person in the State is paying 30% in healthcare co-pay. Unemployment is at an all time high, many have lost their homes. We have a City and a State in financial strain. As a business person, in the business world, raises are not occurring. We have to get the percentage in healthcare co-share up to the maximum to whatever we can.

**Paul Saccoccia**, National Representative of IBPO 301, appeared to speak and stated that the effect of the bad economy is not unique just to the private sector. He asked for unanimous support on this contract.

**Arthur Jordan**, 35 Lincoln Park Ave., appeared to speak and stated that in this economy any City employee, either Police or Municipal, who is willing to give up a raise, certainly needs to be recognized and he asked that the Committee take this into consideration.

Council President Lanni stated that as to the Ordinance before this Committee this evening, the original tentative agreement, he motioned to move it forward to a special City Council meeting with recommendation of no passage. Council Vice-President Livingston seconded the motion.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Archetto** stated that he thinks it is imperative that this is moved forward to the full City Council regardless of what this Committee decides.

**Mayor Fung** asked if the Committee realizes that if the amended agreement is not passed, because of the payment that was to be made for the clothing allowance. This makes it a problem to meet that requirement without that change if the amended agreement is not passed.

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 6-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Navarro, Aceto, Archetto, Lupino, Council Vice-President Livingston and Council President Lanni -6.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees