

SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-APRIL 6, 2011-

A Special meeting of the Cranston City Council was held on WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2011 in the Hope Highlands Elementary School Auditorium, 300 Hope Rd., Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. by Council President Lupino.

Roll Call showed the following members present: Councilwoman Luciano, Councilmen Donahue, Stycos, Navarro, Archetto (appeared at 6:45 P.M.), Santamaria, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino –9.

Also Present: Mayor Allan W. Fung; Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration; Robert Strom, Director of Finance; Mike Igoe, City Controller; Evan Kirshenbaum, City Solicitor; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor.

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The City Clerk read the following:

**CITY OF CRANSTON
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

In Accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Section 6.08, I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council to be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI at which meeting the following items of business shall be transacted:

- Public Hearing relative to the Operating and Capital Budget for the City of Cranston for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, Appropriation Ordinance, Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program for the four (4) fiscal years thereafter, and Ordinance establishing salaries of officers and employees of the City of Cranston pursuant to Chapters 5 and 6 of the Home Rule Charter; Resolution levying and ordering the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable real estate and tangible personal property pursuant to Section 6.11 of the Home Rule Charter

I hereby request the City Clerk to notify all Council members of the Call of the special meeting.

Executed at Cranston, Rhode Island, this 1st day of April, 2011.

/s/ Anthony J. Lupino, Council President

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing-impaired must notify the Office of the City Clerk at 461-1000 Ext. 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.”

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a true copy of the attached Call of a special meeting of the City Council to be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. was delivered via electronic mail on the 1st day of April, 2011 to the addresses listed below.

Council President Anthony J. Lupino
15 Black Oak Court
Cranston, RI 02920
tlupino@cox.net

Council Vice-President Robert J. Pelletier
81 Laconia Rd.
Cranston, RI 02920
robpelletier1@verizon.net

Councilman James E. Donahue
43 Marcy St.
Cranston, RI 02905
jimdonahue@cox.net

Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
61 Autumn St.
Cranston, RI 02910
Navarro_emilio@hotmail.com

Councilman Richard Santamaria
20 Burr St.
Cranston, RI 02920
Ritatj10@yahoo.com

Councilman Paul Archetto
359 Princess Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
Parchetto@ccri.edu

Councilman Michael W. Favicchio
153 Belvedere Dr.
Cranston, RI 02920
mike@favilaw.com

Councilman Steven A. Stycos
37 Ferncrest Ave.
Cranston, RI 02905
steven@stycos.com

Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano
435 Oaklawn Ave. #322
Cranston, RI 02920
laluciano@cox.net

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

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Council President Lupino stated that this meeting was re-located to this location due to the anticipated large crowd and neither Cranston High School East and Cranston High School West were available. He also stated that tomorrow evening's Budget meeting regarding the School Budget will be held at Cranston High School East Auditorium also due to anticipated large crowd and the Council Chambers is not large enough.

Public Speakers:

Many Lopes, 49 Westwood Ave., appeared to speak and stated that the citizens of Cranston elected the Council and the Council is the citizens' voices. People cannot afford any tax increase. The citizens are asking that the Budget be cut.

Nick Nofi, 28 Fairweather Ave., appeared to speak and stated that he feels every citizen should receive a financial statement in detail every year advising the taxpayers of where their tax dollars are spent. Everything needs to be trimmed, every department.

Peter Paoella, 4 Heritage Court, appeared to speak and stated that he does not mind paying more for getting something in return, but paying more and not receiving anything in return for less services is unfair, unacceptable and un-American. He asked the Council, the Mayor and labor leaders to make real concessions.

Robert Lehman, 44 Hawthorne Ave., appeared to speak and asked that Cranston not be compared to Warwick, Providence or Central Falls. Compare Cranston to other States, such as North Carolina or Utah. People cannot afford tax increases.

Lenny Giampietro, 27 Amy Court, appeared to speak and also stated that people cannot afford any more tax increases. Unlimited raises have to be stopped.

Gino Marchetti, 21 Foxglove Dr., appeared to speak and stated that the growth in tax rate has grown too fast. He questioned where the cuts are.

Dick Tomlins, 400 Farmington Ave., appeared to speak and stated that every one of the Council members took an Oath to the citizens of the City when they were elected.

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Alessandra Grossi, 738 Dyer Ave., appeared to speak and stated that although the Mayor inherited this fiscal crisis, the middle class people cannot afford tax hikes.

Aram Garabedian, 173 Belvedere Dr., appeared to speak and stated that the money in savings is there, it is in the contracts. He suggested that another meeting similar to this be held possibly in the central part of the City.

Council President Lupino reminded the members of the public that there are a number of hearings scheduled regarding the Budget, which the public is allowed to speak. He read the list of dates and times of these hearings.

Resident of 1750 Plainfield Pike, hair stylist, appeared to speak and stated that if Governor Chafee's proposal to tax hair salon services is approved, she will not be able to survive.

Mike Farina, 15 Redberry Circle, appeared to speak and stated that a lot of the Council members campaigned on no taxes. He asked that the Council go after the contracts. A 3.99 % tax increase is absurd. Privatize where you can, look at every line item. He wants to see this Budget cut.

Anthony D'Amore, 210 Wildflower Dr., appeared to speak and stated that we cannot continue the road we have been going. The people do not have the money.

Mayor Fung appeared to speak and addressed the members of the public and stated that he has heard everyone's concerns and understands what everyone is going through. One of his obligations, as Mayor, is to keep the City solid. One of the things he will not do is play games with the Budget. He has been making cuts. People have taken pay reductions, pay freezes for three years or more and have increased their co-shares. What he has presented is an honest and transparent Budget.

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Kevin Wilbur, 51 Country Lane, appeared to speak and stated that we need more commercial non-residential in the City for more revenue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Maria Medeiros Wall

City Clerk

Rosalba Zanni

Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees