

*(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 Thursday, August 11, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Council Vice-President Robert J. Pelletier  
Councilman Steven A. Stycos, Vice-Chair  
Councilman James E. Donahue  
Councilman Paul H. Archetto  
Councilman Michael W. Favicchio  
Council President Anthony J. Lupino

Absent: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro, Chair

Also Present: Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration  
Mark Capuano, Deputy Director of Administration  
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor  
Robert Strom, Finance Director  
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor  
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Meredith Mahoney, Stenographer

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

On motion by Councilman Donahue, seconded by Councilman Archetto, 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:**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to approve the above list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to recommend approval of the Real Estate Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of the Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

**School Department report - 2011 Budget Summary (Councilman Stycos).** [\[click here to view\]](#)

**Joseph Balducci**, School Department Business Agent, appeared to speak and stated that the School Department recently closed its books and ended the year with a \$420,000 deficit.

**Councilman Donahue** asked how often the School revises its Budget. Mr. Balducci stated that in the past, when he first came to the District, the School Department would revise its Budget approximately four times a year. This has been stopped.

**Councilman Archetto** asked if the Energy Czar employee is still with the School Department and is she or he doing a good job. Mr. Balducci stated that they have been able to save approximately \$2.3 million since the program was implemented.

**Resolution authorizing presentation by Wind Energy Development LLC on development of renewal energy projects.** [\[click here to view\]](#)

**Eric Hoffenberg** appeared to give a presentation regarding Wind Energy Development LLC.

**Marc DiPasquale**, President of Wind Energy Development, was present to answer questions.

**Joe White, Esq.**, 1 Financial Plaza, Providence, outside legal counsel for Wind Energy Development, appeared to speak and stated that one turbine would cost approximately \$6 million to build. They are looking for a twenty year lease of property with no expenses from the City. The company will pay the City approximately \$60,000 per year in lease payments.

**Councilman Archetto** asked that Mr. Woerner research on how much the City paid in energy costs for 2009-2010.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to approve this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Stycos** asked if the Administration has a position on this Resolution. Mr. Cordy stated that the Administration has done a lot of research on this type of proposal on its own and have not chosen to do anything. Councilman Stycos that if the City decides to do this, it should hire a consultant who would be able to advise the City. Mr. Strom stated that the City's contract expires December 11, 2011 for our energy costs for electricity with the League of Cities and Towns. Council Vice-President Pelletier suggested to Mr. Strom that when the City goes out to bid for energy, it include also wind or turbine type of power.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve the above Resolution and motion failed on a vote of 2-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Archetto and Council Vice-President Pelletier -2. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Stycos, Donahue and Favicchio -3.

**Resolution urging the Mayor to take all necessary steps to enter into and execute an agreement with the State of Rhode Island for State and Federal funding under the Safe Routes to School Project for Hugh B. Bain Middle School and area elementary schools.** [\[click here to view\]](#)

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution urging the Mayor to take all necessary steps to enter into and execute an agreement with the State of Rhode Island for State and Federal funding under the Safe Routes to School Project for Park View Middle School and area elementary schools.** [\[click here to view\]](#)

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees