

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by the Vice-Chair.

Present: Councilman Terence Livingston, Chair
Council Vice-President Paula McFarland, Vice-Chair
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Absent: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Vito Sciolto, City Solicitor
Ernest Carlucci, Director of Administration
Pat Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Anthony Sylvia, Director of Public Works
Frank Smith, City Assessor
Dave Ferguson, Traffic Safety Manager
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, 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:

Traffic Engineer's Report on Proposed Traffic Study for Edgewood

Mr. Ferguson appeared to speak and presented a report. He stated that in 2002, a request was made under the Capital Budget funds to make safety improvements for traffic calming in the Edgewood area. The Mayor and the Council approved \$30,000 for a study for a potential traffic calming. There is funding that has been appropriated, but not in place. This traffic study will be done. What needs to be done is advertise for a consultant to do the study. What needs to be determined is if we are going to go out to bid or use a pre-qualified consultant.

Hope Pilkington, 12 Selkirk Rd., appeared to speak and stated the following issues:

- There needs to be a Police presence on the Boulevard for speeding, especially after midnight.
- Someone in authority, needs to call the State for Grand and Norwood Ave. and remind them that we still need a sign for another 95South right turn sign, because trailer trucks are still going down Selkirk Rd.
- Temporary speed bumps are inexpensive and could be installed.
- On Narragansett Blvd., going North at Norwood Ave., the bike lane disappears and turns into two lanes. This is dangerous and should be fixed.

Sylvia Varadian, 185 Shaw Ave., appeared to speak and stated that there is increased speeding on Shaw Ave. and before someone is hurt, something needs to be done.

Jennifer Shallcross, 75 Massasoit Ave., appeared to speak and stated that this street is being used as a cut-through in an excessively fast speed. She asked that a study be done as soon as possible to address this problem.

Mia Petracca, 62 Chiswick Rd., appeared to speak and stated that her street is the smallest street in the area and she witnesses a lot of speeding in this area. There are a large number of small children in this area, in addition to two schools. There needs to be a permanent solution to this problem.

Randall Vanschepen, 43 Windsor Rd., appeared to speak and stated that something needs to be done to address the speeding problem in this area.

Charles Plumb, 64 Strathmore Rd., appeared to speak and stated that there are 38 children that live on his street and cars speed constantly down this street.

Caroline Micelli, corner of Broad and Ocean Ave., appeared to speak and stated that her complaint is tractor trailers driving up her street as a cut-through.

Jonathan Stevens, 29 Windsor Rd., appeared to speak and made a recommendation that there be a consideration of affordable speed bumps installed. The solution needs to be practical.

Gloria Macera, 1235 Narragansett Blvd., appeared to speak and stated that motorcycle noise and speed is out of control. It is like highway 95.

Councilman Lupino stated that he has asked repeatedly why we can't use traffic calming tables. It is time the City look at using traffic calming tabled. He asked Mr. Woerner, in the report presented by Mr. Ferguson, there is approximately \$1.2 million that is identified, he would like to know by the next meeting, if these are funds that were earmarked or are they part of the Rainy Day Funds and are they identified.

Councilman Barone stated that this is a great idea and supports it 100%, but he hopes Mr. Ferguson puts his effort in this throughout the whole City. If he regionalizes it to one area, he will not support it, because there are other areas in the City that have this same problem.

Councilman Lanni stated that being on the Council for eight years, speeding has always been a problem in the City. Stop signs do not work any more, people do not adhere to them. As far as speed bumps, he is all for it. Maybe we should start with speed bumps at all schools throughout the City. Speed bumps work in Johnston, Providence and other cities, he does not see why they would not work in Cranston.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that Mr. Ferguson needs to have a comprehensive approach now that he has the ability to implement it and how we can combat this throughout the City.

Mr. Ferguson indicated that we have a grant that we received from the State, "Safe Routes to School Program" and we are working to implement the program. A meeting will be held during the month of September and the Council will be asked to attend.

Councilman Livingston asked for an update report back at the next meeting.

Reports from Administration Sewer Tie In Program policy and Procedures

Mr. Sylvia stated that these policies and procedures have not yet been developed.

On motion by Councilman Lupino seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to refer this item to the full City Council with report from Administration as to what these policies and procedures are going to be. Motion passed unanimously.

Real Estate/Tangible Tax Abatements

Mr. Smith appeared to speak.

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

Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements

Mr. Smith appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

Notification pursuant to Ordinance 3.12.080 from City Treasurer of Waiver of Interest (For Information Only)

Tax Interest Waiver Approvals – as recommended by City Treasurer (See attached list)

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver approvals as recommended by the City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Interest Waiver Denials – as recommended by City Treasurer (See attached list)

None.

Councilman Santamaria stated that he has information regarding a 95-year old resident who was in a nursing home and is requesting a tax interest waiver. He asked how to proceed with this information in order for this request to be considered. Chair asked that Councilman Santamaria forward this information to Donald Gray, City Treasurer, in order for it to be placed on next month's agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee