

## SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-DECEMBER 1, 2004-

A Special meeting of the Cranston City Council was held on Wednesday, December 1, 2004 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President Pastore.

Roll Call showed the following members present: Councilmen Fung, Jackvony, Council Member Fogarty, Councilwoman McFarland, Councilmen Lanni, McDonough and Council President Pastore –7.

Absent: Councilwoman Ellen O’Hara and Councilman Ferolito -2.

Also Present: Paul Grimes, Director of Administration; Robin Muksian-Schutt, Deputy Director of Administration; Evan Kirshenbaum; Assistant City Solicitor; Pat Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel; Jerome Baron, Director of Finance; Mike Igoe, City Controller; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor.

Minutes of the last meeting were dispensed with and stand approved as recorded.

**-DECEMBER 1, 2004-**

Clerk read the following:

**CITY OF CRANSTON  
RHODE ISLAND**

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

In Accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Section 3.07 thereof, I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council to be held on **Wednesday, December 1, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.**, Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI at which meeting the following items of business shall be transacted:

A joint meeting with the Cranston School Committee pursuant to the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Chapter 16-2-21(d), to review revenue and expenditure projections and to discuss issues affecting the preparation of the school budget, as required by the Omnibus Property Tax Relief and Replacement Act of 1985.

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

Executed at Cranston, Rhode Island, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004.

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/s/ Peter T. Pastore, Jr., Council President

**-DECEMBER 1, 2004-**

**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, December 1, 2004 at 7 P.M. in Council Chambers, 869 Park Avenue, Cranston, R.I. was delivered via electronic mail on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2004 and regular mail, postage prepaid to the addresses listed below.

Council President Peter T. Pastore, Jr.  
14 Firglade Dr.  
Cranston, RI 02921  
[Ppastore@randolphsavings.com](mailto:ppastore@randolphsavings.com)

Councilman Marc D. Ferolito  
[mferolito@msn.com](mailto:mferolito@msn.com)

Council Member Cynthia M. Fogarty  
[Fogarty1@msn.com](mailto:Fogarty1@msn.com)

Councilman Allan W. Fung  
[alfung@cox.net](mailto:alfung@cox.net)

Councilwoman Ellen O'Hara  
[ellencohara@cox.net](mailto:ellencohara@cox.net)

Councilman Kirk McDonough  
67 Dellwood Rd.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[kirkmcdonough@cox.net](mailto:kirkmcdonough@cox.net)

Councilwoman Paula McFarland  
[pmcfarland@prodigy.net](mailto:pmcfarland@prodigy.net)

Councilman Randall A. Jackvony  
[rjackvony@cox.net](mailto:rjackvony@cox.net)

Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.  
111 Woodview Dr.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[jlanni@peterpanbus.com](mailto:jlanni@peterpanbus.com)

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/s/ Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk

## **-DECEMBER 1, 2004-**

Council President Pastore asked that Jacqueline White, School Committee Chair, take the roll for the School Committee. The following School Committee members were present: Anthony Lupino, Gordon Palumbo, Steven Stycos and Edward Eramian. Ms. White stated that there are also two School Members-Elect in the audience. Also present were Catherine Ciarlo, School Superintendent; M. Richard Scherza, Assistant Superintendent; Raymond Votta, Executive Director of Human Resources and Public Relations and Joseph Balducci, Business Administrator.

School Committee Chair White stated that the School Committee met this week and elected a new Chair, Gordon Palumbo and new Clerk, Anthony Lupino.

Council President Pastore asked School Department if they had any information at this time that they would like to share with the Council regarding their budget. Mr. Balducci appeared to speak and presented a handout.

Council President Pastore recognized Superintendent Ciarlo and congratulated her on being selected Superintendent of the Year and he asked that the City Clerk prepare a proclamation honoring Ms. Ciarlo at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Balducci addressed the handout he presented and stated that in regards to revenues, line items have been level funded.

Council President Pastore stated that last year he requested that for the Fiscal Year ending we are referring to, there be a separate consolidating statement for the Charter School. He received notification today that the numbers are in the process of being reviewed by Mr. Baron, the Auditor General and Mr. Woerner. He is hoping that there is a separate statement for the Charter School. Mr. Balducci stated that the Charter School has its own separate fund, which has been audited. Council President Pastore stated that he requested this so future Councils can see where the expenses and revenues are coming from for the Charter School. Ms. White stated that the Charter School is run by a Board of Directors and the School Committee has no control over it. Council President Pastore stated that this is all the more reason why the Council needs to see those numbers.

Council President Pastore asked Mr. Balducci to elaborate on the basis of the increases of the \$10 million from one year to the next. Mr. Balducci stated that this is mainly for salary increases and steps, benefits, certified pension increase of \$2.3 million over this year's.

Mr. Palumbo stated that these figures are very soft figures and are projections/estimates. The law states that we are here to give projections. The School Department does not have hard facts to project accurate numbers. Council President Pastore stated that he is asking what the \$10 million increase is in, if it is non-discretionary expenditures.

Ms. Ciarlo stated that if you look at page two of the handout, looking at FY 2004-2005 to 2005-2006, there are increase in the salaries in the amount of \$4 million and approximately \$5 million in benefits. Council President Pastore asked what the amount is in health benefit increases. Mr. Balducci stated that the certified pension, health, dental and FICA amounts to approximately \$7 million. Council President Pastore stated that in this case, the true increase is approximately \$2 million.

Ms. Ciarlo stated that due to the Ordinance being proposed to be passed eliminating the Financial Review Board, she questioned if this changes anything with the City. Council President Pastore stated that the Ordinance has nothing to do with the five-year plan the Auditor General instituted. He suggested that the City and School should be looking at the Auditor General as a resource in going forward.

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Council President Pastore asked Mr. Baron to give the City's financial projections. Mr. Baron presented two handouts and stated that the City provided Mr. Balducci with the forecast of revenues with two methodologies. One is with no increase in State Aid and the other includes the five-year plan.

Ms. White asked if these numbers reflect the revaluation that is presently taking place. Mr. Baron stated, yes. Mr. Stycos asked how the 1.7% increase in tax revenues was arrived at. Mr. Baron stated that this is based on growth and tax base that is obtained from the Tax Assessor is and also based on historical records, in his case, over twenty years. Mr. Stycos again asked how this percentage was arrived at. He asked that his information be provided. Council President Pastore asked Mr. Baron if he could have the Tax Assessor generate this, but he did caution that you cannot put a lot of weight on this number because that could change with the revaluation. He also asked that Mr. Baron have the Tax Assessor also look at this by property class. Council Member Fogarty stated that she and the rest of the Council should have this information along with the School Committee.

Council President Pastore asked Mr. Baron if he has looked at the expenditure side. Mr. Baron stated, no.

Council President Pastore stated that going forward, the School Department, when sending correspondence to the Council President, do not limit it just to the Council President, they should copy the remainder of the Council.

Council President Pastore wished the School Committee well, especially the people leaving City Office. Ms. White wished the same to the outgoing City Council and stated that it has been a pleasure to work with them and wished them well and those that are staying, wished them the best.

City Clerk stated that there is an Ordinance to be considered for introduction as new business regarding a budget transfer allocating \$4,000 for the Inauguration (Ordinance 12-04-1S 'Amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2005 – Inauguration Budget Transfer'). Council President Pastore asked if there were any objections to this Ordinance being introduced. Council President objected.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Maria Medeiros Wall  
City Clerk

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

(See Stenographic Notes of Ron Ronzio, Stenotypist)