

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro, Chair
Councilman Mario Aceto, Vice-Chair
Councilman Paul H. Archetto
Council Vice-President Terence Livingston
Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Councilman Anthony J. Lupino

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Richard Bernardo, Director of Public Works
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto, 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:

Financials for the Ice Rink (Councilman Lupino) (Cont. from 11/12/2009 for update)

Mr. Strom presented the financials and stated that these are from July to November. July through December will be provided for the Council meeting. A problem we are having is we are having a lot of issues with the compressors at this facility. Once this problem is addressed, we will be able to generate savings in our utility costs. It would probably be reflected next year. We are now operating on a positive. He addressed the bubble rink, which collapsed a few months ago and stated that we were able to get that up and running because of the efforts of our own personnel, Parks and Recreation and Building Maintenance. This saved the City a considerable amount of money. This would probably be reflected either in the December or January statement.

Councilman Aceto stated that other states that have rinks, such as Maine, have installed in the spectators section quarter operated heaters. He asked that the City look into this and the City would get a portion of those fees. Mr. Strom stated that he will speak to the rink manager regarding this. Ms. Schutt stated that the Administration would be happy to look into that since there have been calls from people that go to the rink of how cold it is in the rink.

Mr. Strom addressed the cost of repairing the bubble rink. He stated that the cost is preliminary. What he has received in bills so far is \$9,000. The City will be submitting this to our insurance company to see if we could receive some type of reimbursement.

***Edgewood Traffic Study Update**

Mr. Bernardo stated that Mr. Ferguson, Traffic Engineer, has been working with Garofalo Associates and they have met in November and December. The report is in revised form at this time and due back to the City in a few weeks. Mr. Ferguson would like to have a public workshop by the end of this month. The cost is approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000 for Edgewood.

Councilman Aceto asked if those monies have been budgeted for. Mr. Bernardo stated that the State has no money. We would have to get funding source.

PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Livingston, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions assessed December 31, 2008**

No action needed.

- **Tax Interest Waivers**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waivers. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Combined total updated report on full costs of snow removal to date (breakdown by line item, ie OT, vendors, supplies, etc.) (requested from Administration by Chair)**

Chair stated that this item was discussed during the Public Works Committee meeting, but he has a few financial questions. He asked if vendors have been paid for materials. Ms. Schutt stated that she just received Purchase Orders and will be paid soon. Chair asked how much these Purchase Orders were for. Mr. Schutt stated approximately \$100,000.

Chair asked how much is left in the Snow Budget. Mr. Strom stated approximately \$170,000 to \$180,000.

Chair asked what the cost is for the repair of the fence at the Highway Garage that was damaged a few months ago. Ms. Schutt stated that she is waiting for the bill from Mr. Ventetuolo, Superintendent of Highway.

Chair stated that at a past meeting, he had requested a copy of the Police report regarding the incident of the City dump truck accident and he has not received it. Ms. Schutt stated that she will provide this, it is public information.

Councilman Aceto asked if there is a way we could place a seal or something on the vendors' vehicles who plow for the City to indicate for City officials and the public that that vehicle is on City time. Ms. Schutt stated that she will speak to the Solicitor regarding this. Councilman Archetto stated that there could be a private vendor plowing for the City on City time and he could be plowing private driveways and make money on the side.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees