

(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, March 17, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Also Present: Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano
Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
Gerald Cordy, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Jacqueline Caruolo, City Registrar
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Councilman Navarro, 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:

Council President Lupino addressed a letter from Andrea Iannazzi, Chair of School Committee, addressed to Brad Draycott, Chair of School Buildings Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Request*** from Michael Rodrigues (Referred from 2/28/2011 City Council).

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to approve the above Tax Interest Waiver request.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos stated that there is no documentation as to why this waiver is being granted except the Mr. Rodrigues stating that he was never late on his taxes. This is not a reason stated in the Code. Ms. Schutt stated that the Treasurer met with the taxpayer and due to medical reasons, he recommended approving this waiver. The taxpayer chose not to include documents regarding the medical reasons in their initial letter of request for waiver.

Roll call was taken on motion to approve the above Tax Interest Waiver request and motion passed on a vote of 6-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Navarro, Donahue, Archetto, Favicchio, Council Vice-President Pelletier and Council President Lupino - 6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Stycos -1.

PUBLIC HEARING

NEW BUSINESS

- ***Real Estate and Tangible Tax Abatements***

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

- ***Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements***

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

- ***Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions due to Taxes Assessed December 31, 2009*** (informational only)

No action.

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Approvals***

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Interest Waiver Approvals. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Denials***

On motion by Councilman Donahue, seconded by Councilman Stycos, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Interest Waiver Denials.

Under Discussion:

Chair questioned the denial for “Sign Graphics”. Mr. Strom stated that the Treasurer usually does not grant waivers to businesses. He suggested the Chair speak to the Treasurer regarding this.

Council President Lupino stated that he would like to see a policy for granting waivers to businesses. Just to deny a waiver request because it is a business is disingenuous.

On motion by Councilman Archetto, seconded by Council President Lupino, it was voted to table the waiver request for “Sign Graphics”. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of the Treasurer denial of the waiver request for Jason Nicotero. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Ice Rink Financials & January Financials*** [\[click here to view\]](#)

Rink Management asked to attend regarding allegations of them entering into competitive negotiations with CLCF Hockey and people being pressured into buying ice time they do not need.

Mr. Strom addressed the financials he provided to the Committee.

Councilman Navarro questioned the item on the agenda where it states allegations with the Rink Management Company. He stated that he feels this should not be listed on the agenda. He clarified that this issue has not been discussed and no one from the Rink Management Company is present.

Council President Lupino stated that he spoke to one of the people that made original allegations and they met with the Rink Management Company within the last few days and they have come to an agreement. The Rink Management Company could not attend this meeting, but they have worked out the issue with that particular person.

Council Vice-President Pelletier suggested to Mr. Strom that if an organization purchases ice time, they pay for their year rental ice time in payments when they reserve it. This would reduce chances of cancellation. Mr. Strom stated that we can make that recommendation, but ultimately, the decision is the Rink Management Company.

- ***Report from Finance Director on car tax collection rate***

Mr. Strom appeared to speak and stated that Motor Vehicle tax collection rate is 72.63% this year.

Council Vice-President Pelletier asked why we are a little lower than what was anticipated. Mr. Strom stated that one reason is change in exemption. In addition to that, some values of used vehicles went up.

- ***Resolution in support of amendment of 17-11-1 entitled “An Act Relating to Elections-Voting Districts and Officials”.*** [\[click here to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Ms. Caruolo appeared to speak.

Councilman Navarro and **Council Vice-President Pelletier** asked to be added as co-sponsors.

Motion to recommend approval of this Resolution passed unanimously.

- ***CDBG Funds – Councilman Archetto***

Councilman Archetto asked how much money is allocated from the Federal Government to the City for 2011. Ms. Schutt stated approximately \$1.2 million. Next year, we are uncertain. She explained how the money is used.

Councilman Stycos questioned the money from the Federal Government for floods. Mr. Cordy stated that that amount is approximately \$1.3 million, which came through HUD as direct relief for floods. We have not seen that money because we have to detail exactly what we will do with that money. Councilman Stycos asked that the Administration provide the Committee with a copy of the Pocasset Plan for HUD money.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees