FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, March 12, 2009 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
                      Councilman Robert J. Pelletier
                      Robin Muksian-Schutt, Director of Administration
                      Gerald Cordy, Deputy Dir. Of Administration
                      Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
                      Robert Strom, Director of Finance
                      Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
                      Joseph Morris, Tax Revenue Agent
                      Salvatore Saccoccio, City Assessor
                      Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
                      Kimberly O'Brien, Clerk
                      Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council Vice-President Livingston, 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

Real Estate/Tangible Tax Abatements

Mr. Saccoccio appeared to speak.

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

Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements

Mr. Saccoccio appeared to speak.

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

Report from Treasurer for approval of waivers

Mr. Strom and Ms. Schutt appeared to speak.

On motion by Council Vice-President Livingston, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waivers.
Under Discussion:
Chairman Navarro asked if there were any questions or comments regarding these waivers and suggested everyone look through the list.

Motion to approve all except for Salvatore Pereschino, as there was no supporting documentation and that it be referred to the Full City Council for documentation.

Roll call was taken and motion passed unanimously.

*Administration detailed report on snow removal budget

Chairman Navarro asked questions of Mr. Strom as far as the report that was forwarded to the Council for their review as far as where we are as of today's date. Mr. Strom directed the Committee to page 19 where the actual figure of $494,159 over budget which does include overtime, material, and subcontractors fees.

Chairman Navarro inquired about the emergency transfer funds that are supposed to be available and was advised by Ms. Schutt that that will come in the fourth quarter as a transfer. Councilman Navarro wants to accept this report as it is today and review it and continue this matter until April for further discussion. The report they have submitted may be too detailed so perhaps Mr. Woerner can review the detailed report and get back to the Council at the next Finance Committee meeting and the Administration should come with just a summary on what they have spent in overtime alone.

Council President Lanni stated that historically they have put approximately $250,000 aside for snow removal and right now we have already spent $500,000 so they need to do an analysis to see what the amount should actually be to put aside for storms.

Mr. Woerner stated that about ten years ago he set aside a reserve fund for snow removal with the hopes that it would be built up over time and year to year they just used this money and never built a reserve and this is something they really need to do in the future.

Ms. Schutt stated that unfortunately this year a lot of the storms were on the weekends so that is a lot of overtime compared to if they happened during the work week. She agrees to have an analysis done to see what the average amount they should plan for each year.

Councilman Aceto asked the current Administration to please plan ahead when budgeting that account.

Mr. Strom indicated they would do a 5 year analysis to project their funds for this year's budget.

Councilman Navarro asked to accept this report in and asked the Administration to provide a summary of just overtime for the next month's Finance Committee meeting

On motion by Council Vice-President Livingston, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to accept this report. Motion passed unanimously.

*Lease of former Police Station property by Paige Productions March 15 – April 2

Ms. Schutt was present from the Administration to explain that a TV pilot show had approached the City about using the old police station and they would pay & $1,000/day + any overages in utilities for approximately 5 days.

Councilman Santamaria stated that there was a Resolution drafted when Brotherhood used the police station and would like something similar done with this agreement.

Ms. Schutt stated that she has no problem with that and she wanted to let the Committee know about this before it went before the full Council.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was accepted by Councilman Aceto and seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to accept this update. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Navarro wanted to discuss the issue with the Budlong Pool and Council Vice-President Livingston explained this was a "point of order" and could not be discussed because it is not on the agenda. Councilman Lupino explained they could plan to put it on next month's agenda so it could be discussed.

On motion by Council Vice-President Livingston, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to have this placed on next month's agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly O'Brien, Clerk

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