

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, May 13, 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 President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Absent: Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
Council Vice-President Terence Livingston

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Councilman Robert J. Pelletier
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
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 Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, 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

- **Advice and Consent on Mayor's appointment of ROBERT W. RYAN as Major of the Cranston Police Department.**

Ms. Schutt appeared to speak and presented the Mayor's Advice and Consent of the appointment of Robert W. Ryan as Major of the Cranston Police Department.

Captain Ryan appeared to speak and thanked the Finance Committee for allowing him to speak. He gave his background and stated that he has worked with Colonel Palombo and Major Schaffran for twenty-two years and looks forward to working with them for many years to come.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to accept the Mayor's appointment of Robert W. Ryan as Major of the Cranston Police Department.

Under Discussion:

Council President Lanni stated that Captain Ryan's credentials are impeccable and he is a great choice for this position.

Councilman Archetto complimented the Mayor's choice for this position.

Councilman Pelletier congratulated Captain Ryan in his appointment as Major and for his hard work and dedication to the City and wished him the best.

Councilman Santamaria also congratulated Captain Ryan in his appointment as Major.

Roll call was taken and motion passed unanimously.

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

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 Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle 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 Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions due to Taxes Assessed December 31, 2008 (informational only)**

No action taken.

- **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 Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

4-10-2 Ordinance authorizing the City to utilize Eastern and Western Cranston Recreation Impact Fees for reconstruction of “Hot Boxes” as mandated by the Providence Water Supply Board.

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 Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Aceto asked for an explanation regarding this Ordinance.

Ms. Schutt stated that this has to do with access to where the water lines are. This is for upgrades.

Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that this is a new requirement, to have boxes above-ground in order for them to be accessible.

Chair asked how the \$26,000 amount was arrived at. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated through bidding or were part of contracts that were in place.

Anthony Liberatore, Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak and stated that the City is mandated to do this upgrade. The City will do this in-house between Parks and Recreation and Building Maintenance, to the tune of \$5,668.17 for Briggs Farm.

Chair asked how much is left in these Impact Fees accounts. Mr. Strom stated that in the Eastern Recreation, balance is \$171,450 and Western Recreation, balance is \$338,846.

Chair asked if this money will be divided equally throughout the City. Mr. Liberatore stated that it would be according to where the boxes are.

Council President Lanni stated that the problem he has is Providence Water supplies the water, it is their pipes, but we have to put the hot boxes in. Mr. Liberatore stated that this benefits the City, because if there is a flood, a pipe breaks or when we have to shut the water off for the season, our City employees have to go in four to five feet of water to make the repairs. By installing these boxes, Providence Water will not have to dig for the meters when taking water meter readings, they would be above-ground.

Councilman Aceto asked if there is something on the books that mandated that we do this. Solicitor Kirshenbaum stated that this was discussed at Board of Contracts and Purchase. Part of this got caught up in the new sprinkler code.

Mr. Liberatore indicated that he can provide information as to the City being mandated to do this.

Councilman Santamaria stated that he has a problem with being mandated by Providence Water to do something when we can't get them to repair roads when they do work on them.

Mr. Liberatore stated that the City of Cranston is just catching up. We should have done this years ago. Other cities and towns have done this five to ten years ago and they are in compliance. Councilman Pelletier questioned whose compliance. Mr. Liberatore stated, Providence Water.

Councilman Aceto withdrew his motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Council President Lanni withdrew his second to the motion.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Council President Lanni, it was voted to refer this Ordinance to the full City Council with no recommendation.

Under Discussion:

Ms. Schutt stated that a concern she has if this is not approved, would Providence Water do what they do with a homeowner by estimating a water bill. In the long run, it would be more prudent to comply.

Council President Lanni stated that he would like the full City Council to discuss this and discuss this more in-depth with the Solicitors if this can be challenged by Providence Water.

Roll call was taken on motion to refer this Ordinance to the full City Council with no recommendation and motion passed unanimously.

4-10-3 Ordinance authorizing the City to utilize Eastern and Western Cranston Police Impact Fees for improvements to Information Technology Room at new Cranston Police Station.

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Lanni, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approve of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Ms. Schutt appeared to speak and deferred to Captain Ricci.

Captain Robert Ricci appeared to speak and explained this project. He stated that Phase II of the project would include the rezoning of the sprinkler system in the cell blocks.

Council President Lanni indicated that the City is leasing this building at this time. The developer should bear some of the responsibility on this. Ms. Schutt stated that the City is looking at ways for the developer to repay the City for this, but research needs to be done on this, such as who signed off on this when the building was built.

Captain Ricci stated that now that we are aware of this issue, we would be remiss not addressing this because we have approximately \$2 million worth of computer equipment in that room.

Councilman Aceto asked if there is a backup if an incident occurs at the Police Station. Ms. Schutt stated that we could run an IT operation from City Hall if we had to.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Ordinance and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees