

SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-MAY 9, 2007-

Special meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, May 9, 2007 in the Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. by the Council President.

Roll Call showed the following members present: Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian –8.

Absent: Councilman Lanni -1.

Also Present: Ernest Carlucci, Director of Administration; Frank Migliorelli, Deputy Director of Administration; Vito Sciolto, City Solicitor; Charles Garganese, Assistant City Solicitor; Corsino Delgado, Director of Finance; Mike Igoe, City Controller; Donald Gray, City Treasurer; Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor; Pat Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel.

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**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, May 9, 2007** at 6:30 P.M. in Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, RI at which meeting the following items of business shall be transacted:

- Consideration and action on the Operating Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Program pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Home Rule Charter.
- Consideration and action on Resolution levying and order the assessment and collection of a tax on ratable real estate and tangible personal property pursuant to Section 6.11 of the Home Rule Charter and Ordinance fixing the date when taxes are assessed and due and payable.
- Consideration and action on any other related Ordinances and Resolutions pertaining to the City of Cranston's budget.

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

Executed at Cranston, Rhode Island, this 2nd day of May, 2007.

/s/ Aram G. Garabedian, Council President

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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, May 9, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. in the Cranston High School East Auditorium, 899 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. was delivered via electronic mail on the 2nd of May, 2007 and regular mail, postage prepaid to the addresses listed below.

Council President Aram G. Garabedian
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[Aram @blissproperties.net](mailto:Aram@blissproperties.net)

Council Member Maria A. Bucci
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MarBC4@aol.com

Councilman Terence Livingston
28 Tucker Ave.
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Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
16 Samuel Court
Cranston, RI
Jeffreyb22@cox.net

Councilwoman Paula B. McFarland
100 Pomham St.
Cranston, RI 02910
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Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
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Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
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Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
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Councilman Richard Santamaria
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/s/ Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk

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Public speakers:

Peter Paoella, 4 Heritage Court, appeared to speak and read from a campaign flyer Mayor Napolitano distributed during the campaign stating his comprehensive plan, which indicated his plan to hold the line on taxes as his highest priority and instituting cost efficiencies. He asked what the amount of savings is from his comprehensive plan of his cost efficiencies in this budget. Mr. Carlucci stated that when this Administration came in, they went through each department starting with comp and overtime and tried to curtail it. Each department was asked if they was any way they could reduce their budget. Most Administrators who came in with this Administration came in at a lower salary and this Administration tried to fill all positions. This Council and Administration created a Project REDIRECT to see where cuts could be made. This is a work in progress and things do not happen overnight. Mr. Paoella stated that the Mayor's comprehensive plan is a drop in the bucket. During his campaign, the Mayor stated that he would seek concessions from various Unions. He asked if the Mayor will keep that promise. Mr. Carlucci stated that the Mayor will have open, honest and equitable negotiations when contracts come up and will continue to strive to do everything in the best interest of the City. Mr. Paoella questioned if there is an amount in the budget relating to the Mayor's cornerstone of his comprehensive plan of what he saves the City based on what he ran his campaign on.

Allan Fung, 252 Mayfield Ave., former Councilman, appeared to speak and stated that to him, this budget still does not make a lot of sense. The City's overall expenses are being increased. The issue he is very concerned about is \$1 million of the Capital is restricted funds contingent upon the sale of the Police Station. More money has to be allocated to the Schools and not in restricted funds.

Richard Tomlins, 400 Farmington Ave., appeared to speak and stated that the only thing this budget will do is perhaps get us by this year. There is nothing in this budget that addresses future contracts, future unfunded pension liability for Police and Fire and the Schools. The membership of the Project REDIRECT Commission should be amended to add members of the public who are not politically connected.

John DeGenova, Cranston Firefighter, appeared to speak regarding the Capital Budget for the addition to Station 3 to be able to store a fire truck, which at this time, due to its size, does not fit into the Station. He stated that this is an issue that will directly impact residents in that area. He strongly is opposed to ever entertaining the notion of modifying the vehicle to fit into the station because the truck would have a problem getting up hills in the City.

James McElroy, 54 Tome St., appeared to speak and asked what the annual cost of the Fire Union contract is. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that they are still in negotiations. The Council has placed a percentage, 30%, in the budget at this time for this contract. Mr. McElroy asked the same question in regards to the Police contract and also if there are any proposals for any increases. He also asked if there is any chance the City will dip into the Surplus Account. Council President Garabedian stated that there is approximately \$20 million in the Surplus Account and to his knowledge, right now, based on the Finance Committee recommendations and this Council's intention, this will not be touched. Mr. McElroy stated that his opinion is that the Surplus Account should not be touched because his concern is whether it would negatively effect the City's bond rating.

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Councilman Livingston, Chair of the Finance Committee, stated that the Finance Committee met and went through the budget line item by line item and met with Mr. Woerner. The Finance Committee came up with a budget and found enough money to reduce tax rate by 25% to 62 cents from 83 cents and also allocated \$1.1 million additional to the Schools and additional \$800,000 to the Police and Fire Pension Fund. The Committee also considered a deferred tax structure for the elderly and disabled. Early retirement incentive was also looked at, which we are not able to do at this time but are working on. The Committee was also interested in looking at giving some tax relief to the citizens of the City, which we were able to do. Unfortunately, the best the Committee could do, was reduce the tax to 62 cents. He wishes that more could have been done. He suggests the Council approve the Finance Committee recommendations on the budget. It is a fair budget. It might not be the best, but it is a fair budget.

The following amendments were made to various department line items:

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Livingston, it was voted to amend the "Revenue Account" as follows:

101-0000-41110 (Abatements)	-	amended to \$ 400,000
101-0000-41215 (Excise Tax)	-	amended to \$12,836,000
101-0000-41161 (Prior Yr. Taxes)	-	amended to \$ 1,315,000
101-6201-42501 (School Revenues)	-	amended to \$ 4,334,000
101-2801-45107 (Police Detail Cars)	-	amended to \$ 175,000
101-4506-42804 (Nutrition)	-	amended to \$ 790,000
101-0000-46160 (Rescue)	-	amended to \$ 1,210,000
101-2801-45117 (Haz. Mat. Fees)	-	amended to \$ 5,000

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 7-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7. The following being recorded "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to amend "Inspections-Revenues" as follows:

101-2301-43121 (Building Permits)	-	amended to \$1,200,000
101-2301-43122 (Plumbing Permits)	-	amended to \$ 273,000
101-2301-43123 (Elect. Insp.)	-	amended to \$ 205,000
101-2301-43184 (Cert. of Occupancy)	-	amended to \$ 19,500
101-2301-43210 (Permits)	-	amended to \$ 25,000
Total Net Increase	\$130,000	

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that there will be two additional positions created in this department to enhance the revenues in this department. Councilman Lupino questioned who will monitor the expediting permits. He recommended that some of these revenues be earmarked and redirected to the IT Department budget in order for documents and information to be set up on the City's website for the public. Councilman Barone stated that he is in favor of adding revenues to this department, but he hopes that the expense does not overcome the revenue. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that it won't.

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -8.

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On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Livingston, it was voted to amend "Expenditures" as follows:

101-1401-51429 (Claims Contribution)	\$ 1,092,000	amended to	\$ 942,000
101-5102-51257 (Fire Pension Unfunded)	9,820,000	amended to	10,220,000
101-5102-51258 (Police Pension Unfunded)	7,964,000	amended to	7,964,000
101-0350-54010 (Website Mgmt. In-house)	210,000	amended to	176,000
101-6201-55220 (School Dept.)	125,356,000	amended to	125,496,000
101-2101-55201 (Rescue Vehicle)	150,000	amended to	-0-
101-5102-54627 (Bond Sale Exp.)	30,000	amended to	-0-
101-3601-54704 (White Goods)	150,000	amended to	120,000
101-3601-54706 (Tipping Fees)	1,100,000	amended to	1,050,000
101-2301-51114 (Insp. OT)	25,000	amended to	20,000
101-3301-54300 (Bldg. Maint. Contracts)	140,000	amended to	175,000
101-1601-54624 (Revaluation)	140,000	amended to	-0-
101-3101-51101 (PW Dir. Sal. Diff.)	208,000	amended to	152,000
101-5101-56001 (Transfer to Budg. Stab.)	460,000	amended to	-0-
All new Administrators' Raises		amended to	-0-
0201-54061 (City Council-Other)	22,000	amended to	160,000
0201-54029 (City Council-Advertising)	10,000	amended to	9,000
0201-54135 (City Council-Code Bks.)	6,000	amended to	3,000
2101-51114(Fire Dept. OT	1,950,000	amended to	1,470,000
Salary	11,757,688	amended to	12,103,688
2101-51108 (Legal Holiday Pay)	996,703	amended to	1,022,701
0701-50047 (City Planning-Pub. Hearings)	4,300	amended to	3,300
0702-54074 (Econ. Dev.-Marketing)	10,500	amended to	5,000
0702-54251 (Econ. Dev.-Special Events)	2,000	amended to	1,000
5401-54506 (Historic Dist. Comm.)	1,000	amended to	2,000
2301-51101 (Inspections-Salary)	655,728	amended to	659,723
2301-51104 (Inspections-Diff.)	10,000	amended to	6,000
0450-51101 (Personnel-Salary)	158,370	amended to	155,873
0450-51251 (Personnel-Fed. Old Age)	12,116	amended to	11,925
0450-51252 (Personnel-Pension Cont.)	9,708	amended to	9,572
0501-51101 (City Clerk-Salary)	339,883	amended to	345,972
0501-51103 (City Clerk-Extra Vac.)	2,947	amended to	1,805
0501-51114 (City Clerk-Overtime)	8,500	amended to	7,000
0501-51251 (City Clerk-Fed. Old Age)	26,007	amended to	26,472
0501-51252 (City Clerk-Pension Cont.)	27,225	amended to	27,555
0501-53120 (City Clerk-Books & Binders)	11,000	amended to	5,000
0501-54277 (City Clerk-Zone Change)	5,000	amended to	9,750
0501-54281 (City Clerk-Lic. Adv.)	3,000	amended to	3,700
0650-51101 (Canvassers-Salary)	123,687	amended to	123,304
0650-51113 (Canvassers-Part-Time Help)	-0-	amended to	8,000
0650-51251 (Canvassers-Fed. Old Age)	9,464	amended to	9,434
0650-51252 (Canvassers-Pension Cont.)	8,912	amended to	8,891
0650-54046 (Canvassers-Elections)	47,000	amended to	39,000
1601-51101 (Assessment-Salary)	431,212	amended to	429,523
1601-51251 (Assessment-Fed. Old Age)	32,994	amended to	32,864
1601-51252 (Assessment-Pen. Contr.)	32,196	amended to	32,104
7500-51101 (WIA-Salary)	252,976	amended to	251,958
7500-51251 (WIA-Fed. Old Age)	19,355	amended to	19,277
7500-51252 (WIA-Pension Cont.)	18,130	amended to	18,074
7500-45133 (WIA-Other Revenues)	341,340	amended to	340,188

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Under Discussion:

Councilman Barone questioned why some department heads are getting increases and some are getting decreases. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that the original budget presented by the Mayor had an increase of 6% by error and reflectively, we changed it to reflect 3% increase for those remaining department heads. Councilman Lupino questioned why the amendment to line item 101-2101-55201, since the Chief last week stated concerns regarding this. Mr. Woerner stated that the rescue vehicle was put into the Budget Stabilization fund and that Ordinance will be presented at the next Council meeting as well as the Schools will be taken from the Budget Stabilization Fund. Councilman Lupino questioned how do we fund for the Public Works Director when one is found, since we are not budgeting for one at this time. Council President Garabedian stated that during the year, budget amendments can be made. We could also place a certain amount in the budget and if this is needed, it will be there. Councilman Barone questioned if the Chief Engineer has agreed to take on the duties as Acting Public Works Director. Mr. Carlucci stated that he cannot speak for him, but to his knowledge, there is no agreement in regards to the Chief Engineer taking on these duties. Councilman Barone stated that he will vote against the Finance Committee's amendments as he did during the Finance Committee meeting because he is unsure about the differential of \$10,000 for the City Engineer and the 3% pay increase is too high. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that the Council has set money aside in the amount of \$140,000, in the Council Contingency Fund to pay for a Public Works Director and the Administration can make appropriate changes at that time if a person is hired for this position. Councilman Barone stated that he has a big concern with the formula being used for the Hospitalization Buyback. No one has come forward with any amendments regarding this formula. He would like to see that. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that this needs to be done by amending the Administrative Unit Contract by introducing an Ordinance amending this contract. Councilman Barone stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Corsino stated that he receives the buyback and if he opted to take the health coverage instead, it would cost the City approximately \$12,000 as compared to the 50% he receives for the buyback. Councilman Barone stated that he feels this is blackmailing the City. Mr. Corsino stated that he takes offense at Councilman Barone's statement. He was just using that example to try to make a math example where if every employee took the buyback the City would save millions of dollars versus them getting the health coverage at the full cost.

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 7-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

On motion by Councilman Livingston, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to amend "Harbor Master" #5501-5400 to \$2,000.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Barone questioned where this money would come from. Mr. Woerner stated that he envisions that we add up all the changes proposed by the Council this evening and come up with a number and then figure out where the funds for this would come from.

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 7-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

On motion by Councilman Livingston, seconded by Council Vice-President McFarland, it was voted to amend "City Clerk-Document Storage Retrieval" #0501-53030 to \$-0-. Motion passed on a vote of 7-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

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On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to amend "Personnel Department-Salary" #450-51101 to \$105,821 and "Personnel Department-Part Time Help" #450-51113 to \$25,000.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Livingston asked what was the reason, rationale for this amendment. Councilman Lupino stated that during the Finance Committee Budget Hearing, the Personnel Director stated that there are two Administrators in that department appear to do the same job, she stated that they mirror each other. This is an area we should start to look at in consolidation.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Livingston, it was voted to move the question. Motion passed on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Lupino, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston, Navarro and Barone -3.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend the two stated line items in this department and motion passed on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Lupino, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston, Navarro and Barone -3.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to delete the position of "Personnel Analyst", Position 32/5, salary of \$50,052.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Livingston stated that the Personnel Director should have appeared this evening to speak.

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilman Lupino, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston, Navarro and Barone -3.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Council Member Bucci, it was voted to amend "Building Maintenance-Youth Center" #3301-54140 to \$20,000. Motion passed on a vote of 7-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to amend "Building Inspections" as follows:

#2301-51101 Salary - amended to add two new positions, both at 43,450, for total of \$86,900 and with corresponding amendments to other salary related line items to be amended for total Salary in this department of \$124,852.

Permit Tech. position changed to Classified position at Grade 19/4-5

Plan Reviewer (New Position) – Classified position at Grade 26/1-2

Building Inspector (New Position)-Classified position at Grade 26/1-2

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 7-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Livingston - 1.

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On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Santamaria, it was voted to amend "Website Management In-house" #101-0350-54010 by adding \$2,500 for purpose of adding on streamline process for Building Inspections Office. Motion passed on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston, Santamaria and Barone -3.

On motion by Councilman Livingston, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to remove "Astro Turf for Stadium" from the Capital Budget.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Lupino asked if there are other expenses besides the \$750,000 requested and he also stated that he did not receive a proformer for this. Anthony Liberatore, Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak and stated that there would be championship games held at the Stadium at between \$1,500 to \$3,000 per game, but he did not have time to get this information to the Council for this meeting. He is very disappointed that this cut is being proposed. Councilman Lupino stated that this should have been justified. Mr. Liberatore stated that he has all this information, but did not think this was the proper forum to discuss it. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that the Capital Budget and Operating Budget are two separate documents. The Capital Budget is a wish list. A lot of items are moved to the following year or the year after that. If the Administration moves forward with this, they would need to do an analysis of each department's request for their Capital Budget. She also stated that this proformer was not requested of any other division except for this one. Mr. Liberatore stated that installing this turf is not just for the benefit of the City, it is for the State of Rhode Island. There are teams in Providence who do not have a field to play on and by them using our field, the City of Cranston will receive grants. Councilman Barone stated that he has received numerous e-mails from constituents regarding this issue and if we are increasing taxes by 5 1/2%, he has to go back to these people and justify approving \$750,000 for Capital Budget for the turf. This may be a misconception, but this is not the time for this. Mr. Liberatore stated that those same people voted "yes" for a \$2.7 million bond for site recreational development in the City.

On motion by Councilman Livingston, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to move the question. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Barone and Council Vice-President McFarland -8.

Roll call was taken on main motion to remove the turf from the Capital Budget and motion failed on a vote of 3-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Livingston, Barone and Council President Garabedian -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5.

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On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to amend "School Department" #101-6201-55220 by increasing this line item to \$900,000.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Livingston stated that he will not support this amendment and indicated to the Council members that if this amendment is passed, they would be voting to increase taxes by another 10-12 cents, which is not good. This will not change anything, because there will still be a Caruolo Act filed by the School Department. Councilman Lupino stated that this amount is awfully short on what the School Department needs. He will support this, but he wishes it was more. Councilman Barone recommended placing the \$900,000 into our Law Department budget because we are going to need that for the Caruolo Action and because of this, he is going to vote against this amendment. Councilman Livingston stated that this \$900,000 is not going to do anything except raise the taxes and the taxpayers are not going to be happy. The taxes will be raised and there will still be a Caruolo Action. Council President Garabedian clarified that the Rainy Day Fund is not being raided, \$800,000 has been appropriated to the Police and Fire Pension and \$900,000 to the Schools. Councilman Livingston asked if by appropriating \$900,000 to the Schools, would this prevent a Caruolo Action. Council President Garabedian stated, no. Councilman Livingston asked, then why are we doing it. Council President Garabedian stated that it would be sending a message to the taxpayers.

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston, Santamaria and Barone -3.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to amend "Sewer Assessment" for this year #502-3402-41411 to \$13,908,124; for prior year #502-3402-4112 to \$708,477; School Sewer Fees to \$117,000 with corresponding amendments to be made to the sewer rate Ordinance

Under Discussion:

Councilman Livingston asked if this would increase the taxes from where the Finance Committee reduced the taxes. Mr. Woerner stated, no, it does not effect the property taxes, but the proposed sewer fees would decrease by approximately 3.5%, which requires amending the rates in the proposed sewer ordinance. Councilman Barone stated that as to all the amendments being made this evening, he would like, if possible, if there is an increase in the tax, what that percentage is and will the Council know that this evening. Mr. Igoe stated, yes, he can tell what the final tax will be. Councilman Barone stated that he has three concerns: 1) how much are we putting towards pension; 2) what is total we are giving to the Schools; and 3) what the tax increase number is. Council President Garabedian read a Resolution, which will be sent to the General Assembly, proposing to institute a program to help disabled citizens and senior. This proposal would be appropriating \$628,627 to institute this program. Both Lincoln and Cumberland have had great success with this program. We currently have 500 seniors in the City who receive a tax freeze. We also have 5,500 seniors who are 65 and over who receive a tax break. There are 5,072 single-family homeowners over 65 years of age or disabled. The bulk of the seniors' home value in the City fall into \$300,000 and lower. The parameters of this Resolution will be governed by the Council. Council President Garabedian asked where the extra revenue that these people, who are deferred to pay their taxes, will be coming from and will the rest of the residents have to pick up that revenue. Council President Garabedian stated that this gives a desperate taxpayer an opportunity. Some may not take advantage of this program because of pride. Councilman Livingston asked how much this program would cost if every single person that is eligible for this program takes advantage of it.

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Mr. Woerner stated that there are several steps that would have to be implemented before the program would go into effect: 1) place the amount of money in the Tax Assessor's Budget; 2) the Council would approve an Ordinance and later get approval from the General Assembly setting the parameters. You cannot determine the cost this evening if you have not determined the parameters. This program was started in Cumberland approximately five years ago. The program is simply increases deferred. Very few people took advantage of it. In Cumberland, there are approximately twenty people who participate in this program. Typically, the cost is very modest. Councilman Livingston stated that he cannot support something he does not know what the cost is going to be. Council President Garabedian stated that the money is backed by an asset. It is not giving them a free gift, it is a deferral. Once the home is sold, the City gets that money back. Councilman Barone stated that this is a good idea, but asked how long this would take to pay for itself. Mr. Woerner stated that in Cumberland, it was estimated for ten years. Council Vice-President McFarland stated one of the merits of this program is it gives an opportunity to offer this to the people who qualify. Based upon using assessed values, people in Edgewood and Western Cranston would not qualify, would not be able to participate in this program. She suggests to place \$600,000 into the Contingency Fund and let the General Assembly do their job and see if they place income limit in it and then the Council can institute this program. Councilman Barone stated that if we are going to do this, it should be done when we stabilize taxes or lower taxes. To fund this budget as proposed this evening, we have to raise taxes 5.25%. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that if we are looking for deferral program, this year is the year to do it, but this needs to be looked at further.

Roll call was taken and motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -8.

"RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING A SENIOR, DISABLED AND VETERANS TAX DEFERRMENT PROGRAM"

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to adopt the above Resolution.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to amend the above Resolution by placing \$608,227 in the Council Contingency Fund as proposed by the Mayor -0- and amended for adjust amount by Council \$768,227. Motion passed on a vote of 6-2. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston and Barone -2.

Roll call was taken on main motion to adopt as amended and motion passed on a vote of 6-2. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilman Santamaria, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -6. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston and Barone -2.

-MAY 9, 2007-

“ORDINANCE MAKING ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CITY OF CRANSTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2007 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2008”

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Navarro, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Livingston, Santamaria and Barone -3.

“RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET AND THE ATTACHED SALARY SCHEDULE FOR THE GENERAL FUND, THE SEWER FUND, THE INSURANCE FUND AND THE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2007 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2008 AND ADOPTING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE FOUR SUCCEEDING YEARS”

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lupino, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Livingston, Santamaria and Barone -3.

“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS AND LEVY OF TAXES”

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lupino, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 5-3. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Lupino, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Livingston, Santamaria and Barone -3.

“ORDINANCE FIXING THE DATE WHEN TAXES ARE ASSESSED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006 WILL BE DUE AND PAYABLE AND THE DATE WHEN UNPAID TAXES WILL CARRY A PENALTY”

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lupino, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -8.

-MAY 9, 2007-

“ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 13 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON, 2005, ENTITLED ‘PUBLIC SERVICES’”

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Lupino, the above Ordinance was adopted (with amendments to correlate with the amended sewer budget line items) on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”:
Councilmen Lupino, Livingston, Navarro, Council Member Bucci, Councilmen Santamaria, Barone, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -8.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that if the Mayor vetoes this budget, a meeting to override the veto will be held Monday, May 14, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 P.M.

Maria Medeiros Wall JD
City Clerk

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

(See Stenographic Notes of Paula Campagna, Stenotypist)