

(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, October 13, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Absent: Councilman Emilio L. Navarro

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Mark Capuano, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Robert Strom, Director of Finance
Carlos Lopez, Director of Constituent and Government Affairs
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 Donahue, seconded by Councilman Stycos, 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

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

On motion by Councilman Favicchio, seconded by Councilman Donahue, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Real Estate Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Stycos indicated that the Council has not received minutes from the Tax Assessment Board of Review. Mr. Strom stated that he will speak with the Assessor and advise him of this.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of the Real Estate Tax Abatements and motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilman Stycos, seconded by Council President Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

9-11-3 Ordinance in amendment of Title 8, Chapter 40 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Security Alarm Systems" (Police False Security Alarm Notification).
[\[click here to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President Pelletier questioned the fees on page two of the Ordinance. This page is the old version. Clerk indicated that she will insert the correct page prior to the Ordinance being adopted.

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

9-11-4 Ordinance in amendment of title 8, Chapter 40 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Security Alarm Systems" (Police False Alarm Assessment Schedule).
[\[click here to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Council Vice-President Pelletier, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Mr. Strom stated that he has some issues with this Ordinance. We already have a line item in the Police Department Budget called "Reimbursement for False Alarms". His concern is the money received from this Ordinance, if passed, should go to that line item. It should be in a restricted account, which this Ordinance does not place the funds in a restricted account.

Council Vice-President Pelletier stated that the false alarm line item in the Budget has never been collected until two years ago. The current line item has been zeroed out. The Fire Department has a line item in their Budget for replacement of apparatus from funds collected through third party rescue runs.

Mr. Strom stated that the City has been trying to replace Police vehicles.

Councilman Favicchio suggested to the sponsor of this Ordinance redefining how the fines taken in from Municipal Court and what account they are placed in.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of the above Ordinance failed on a vote of 1-4. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Council Vice-President Pelletier -1. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Stycos, Donahue, Archetto and Favicchio -4.

Resolution requesting that the General Assembly amend the Mayoral Academy Statute. [\[click here to view\]](#)

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Archetto, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Council President Lupino asked to be added as co-sponsor.

Councilman Favicchio stated that he is concerned that we are asking the General Assembly to make a ruling for all other cities and towns. We should not be involved in a statewide issue dictating what other cities and towns want to do.

Richard Tomlins, 400 Farmington Ave., appeared to speak in favor.

No one appeared to oppose.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of the above Resolution and motion passed on a vote of 3-2. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Stycos, Archetto and Council Vice-President Pelletier -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Donahue and Favicchio -2.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Council President Lupino referred to a letter sent to the Mayor and City Council from the Auditor General regarding pensions. He stated that he would like an update on what is going on with this letter by the City Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees