

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, September 10, 2007 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Terence Livingston, Chair
Council Vice-President Paula McFarland, Vice-Chair
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Also Present: Charles Garganese, Jr., Assistant City Solicitor
Corsino Delgado, 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

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Barone, 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:

New (Bubble) Ice Rink Report from Administration on agreement for revenue distribution
(Cont. 7/12/2007 and 8/16/2007).

Ice Rink: Finance report from Management Company and Finance Director and Council Auditor. (Cont. 7/12/2007 and 8/16/2007).

Mr. Woerner presented the latest draft of the budget prepared by Rink Management and stated that it has not yet been approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. His concern with this is it shows \$20,000 loss in the operation of the rink. Maybe fees should be increased. Something should be done so both the existing rink and the bubble rink raise money.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that her concern is that the pro shop is a separate entity. She does not believe the City has an agreement for them to operate the pro shop. She agrees that if they are not making money, their fees should be increased. This issue should go back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Councilman Lupino questioned page 1 of the handout regarding the “Youth Hockey Revenues”, which show -0-. Councilman Navarro indicated that this revenue is listed on page 1 under “4041 Hockey Contract Ice Revenue”. Councilman Lupino stated that he would like this broken down further.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that a memo should be provided stating what Rink Management is going to do to enhance their revenues.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to continue the above two items for more information. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

NEW BUSINESS:

REAL ESTATE/TANGIBLE TAX ABATEMENTS

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Council Vice-President McFarland, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX ABATEMENTS

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

REAL ESTATE ABATEMENTS DUE TO BOARD OF REVIEW ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2006 (informational only)

No action needed.

TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW DECISIONS (informational only)

No action needed.

Report from Treasurer on his actions under Ordinance 3.12.080 (informational only)

No action needed.

Report from Treasurer for denial of waivers

None. No action needed.

Report from Treasurer for approval of waivers

No one appeared to speak.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

8-07-1 Ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 (Network RI Positions Amendments).

Councilman Lupino stated that after speaking to some of these people in these positions, he feels we are losing grounds as far as our partnership with Providence. He asked what the City of Cranston is doing to make sure that a share of these positions go to residents of Cranston. He also asked if there is a breakdown available of how many jobs have been generated for Cranston as opposed to Providence. Council Vice-President McFarland stated that this is a federally-funded program and there should be an administrative breakdown. Throughout the budget process, this department should be appearing before the Council. During the past Administration, this has been neglected.

Councilman Livingston asked Mr. Delgado to provide in a report form, for the Council meeting, the information requested by Councilman Lupino.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to table this Ordinance to next month's meeting.

Robert Murray, Esq., 21 Garden City Dr., appeared to speak and clarified that Network RI is a division of the Department of Labor and Training. He also gave background on this program, since his wife is employed by the Department of Labor and Training.

8-07-2 Ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 (Network RI - Supplemental Appropriation).

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to table this Ordinance to next month's meeting.

8-07-6 Ordinance transferring appropriations and amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 (Public Works Director's Salary).

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that the Ordinance should show the balance.

Councilman Barone asked that amendment be made to his original motion, to add that the balance of the contingency fund be added to this Ordinance.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to amend this Ordinance to add balance of contingency fund. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees