

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, September 11, 2008 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Council Member Maria A. Bucci
Charles Garganese, Assistant City Solicitor
Pat Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Corsino Delgado, Director of Finance
Donald Gray, City Treasurer
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, 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

Traffic Engineer's Report on Proposed Traffic Study for Edgewood

Chair stated that he spoke to the Traffic Engineer and sated that this is moving forward. Councilman Barone asked if this study is just for Edgewood or for the rest of the City. Chair stated that this will move to other parts of the City, since there is enough money for it.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council President Garabedian, it was voted to continue this item. Motion passed unanimously.

Real Estate/Tangible Tax Abatements

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to recommend approval of the above Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

Agreement for Tax Interest Waiver between Blue Eyes, LLC and the City of Cranston

Tax Interest Waiver – Offer made by William Myers – no recommendation by City Treasurer

Mr. Gray stated that Mr. Myers lives in Florida and for some reason, the City had the wrong mailing address for him. He never received any bills until this past February. He stated that Mr. Myers was concerned about the interest and asked if anything could be done. He indicated to him that the Council would have to address this. Mr. Myers has offered to make \$1,000 payment for twelve months. The total due is approximately \$12,000 and he is asking for the interest to be waived.

Councilman Livingston stated that ultimately, it is Mr. Myers responsibility to pay the bill even if he never received a bill. If we are going to waive the interest, he has to give the City a lump sum. If he is willing or able to pay the City the balance in full by the next meeting, then he will consider waiving the interest. He asked who lives at the address in Florida. Mr. Gray stated that there is no such address and the bill could have come back to the City, but there would have been no way of finding out where he lived.

On motion by councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to deny the interest waiver at this time and continue this until the next meeting and if balance is paid in full, the Committee will reconsider the motion to waive the interest.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Lanni stated that he feels this should be denied altogether.

Councilman Lupino asked if there is a lien against this property. Mr. Gray stated, yes.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to deny this interest waiver even if taxpayer pays full amount by next month. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Interest Waiver Denial – as recommended by City Treasurer

Councilman Santamaria stated that Ms. Tahakjian was late on payment because she was in a Nursing Home and she has documents from the Nursing Home verifying this.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council Vice-President McFarland, it was voted to deny the recommendation made by the City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Lupino questioned if anyone in the City has looked at setting up automatic withdrawals from savings or checking accounts for people who cannot come in person to mail in their tax payments. Mr. Sciolto stated that he will check into this. Councilman Lupino asked that the Solicitor report back at the next meeting on his findings.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees