

(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, September 15, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Absent: Councilman James E. Donahue

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Mark Capuano, Deputy Director of Administration
Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
Steven Marsella, Assistant City Solicitor
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Pat Quinlan, City Council Legal Counsel
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Meredith Mahoney, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, 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 Council President Lupino, seconded by Councilman Favicchio, 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. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

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

- **City's Energy Costs for 2009-2010.** Report from Council Auditor (Councilman Archetto)

Chair asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

- **Discussion of City's Hedging of Utility costs.** (Council Vice President Pelletier)

Mr. Cordy stated that the City has been very aggressive with this. We are in contract with RI League of Cities and Towns with purchasing our energy. Current contract expires in December.

Councilman Stycos asked what the School Department does. Joseph Balducci, School Chief Financial Officer, appeared to speak and stated that the School Department utility operation is similar to the City. They purchase two of their utilities, electric and natural gas, through the State statewide collaborative. Peter Nero, School Superintendent, also appeared to speak and addressed the above issue.

Chair asked that this item be removed from the agenda.

8-11-1S Ordinance ratifying School Committee's Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Cranston Teachers' Alliance, Local 1704, AFT (School Years 2011-13).

[\[click here to view\]](#)

Andrea Iannazzi, School Committee Chair, appeared to speak and urged the Committee to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

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

Under Discussion:

Chair questioned certified pensions decrease for 2011-2013. Ms. Iannazzi stated that this is a projected pension rate. Mr. Balducci stated that this is correct.

Chair questioned why the correspondence attached to the contract between Mr. Balducci and Ms. Larkin are all signed except for the correspondence regarding the Libraries and Teacher Assistance. Raymond Votto, Chief Operating Officer, appeared to speak and presented signed copies of those pages to the Clerk.

Councilman Favicchio stated that the teachers do a good job and he is not objecting to the contract, but his concerns are if the State does not fully fund the Schools, we are locked into this contract, the Schools would have to make additional cuts.

Chair asked that the Finance Director address this concern by the City Council meeting.

Councilman Archetto questioned Council President Lupino voting on this contract, since his wife is a teacher. Council President Lupino stated that he will not vote at this Committee level. He will only vote to break the tie. He is under an Ethics ruling. He cannot negotiate in public or closed session, but he can vote.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of the above Ordinance and motion passed on a vote of 5-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Stycos, Navarro, Archetto, Favicchio and Council Vice-President Pelletier -5.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees