

(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 Monday, September 14, 2020 via Zoom Webinar.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:47 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilmember Aniece Germain
 Councilmember John P. Donegan
 Councilmember Edward J. Brady
 Councilmember Christopher G. Paplauskas
 Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
 Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair

Also Present: Councilmember Lammis J. Vargas
 Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
 Robert Strom, Finance Director
 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
 David Dimaio, City Council Budget Analyst
 Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Donegan, 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/COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS:

- ***Review of Online Records Project (Council Vice-President Favicchio)***

Ms. Zarrella stated that we are getting ready to start testing for the e-recordings and the technology has been updated and should start within the next week or so. The first companies we will be using is CSC and Simple File and then E-Recording Partners will follow shortly thereafter.

Chair asked that this item be kept on the agenda until the project is done.

5-20-03 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance” (Bid Discounts for Local Businesses, Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises). Sponsored by Councilmember Donegan. CONT. from 7/6/2020.

Chair asked Councilmember Donegan if various Directors, Solicitor’s Office and Finance Office have been involved in devising this. Councilmember Donegan stated that approximately five weeks ago, he, Councilmember Vargas, Director Parrillo, Director Strom and Purchasing Agent, Mark Marchesi had a lengthy conversation about the Ordinance and what other cities and towns do.

Chair stated that he thinks that we really need an in-depth opinion from the Finance Director, Solicitor and the Department Head involved. The idea is great, but there needs to be a lengthy debate.

Director Parrillo stated that the main concern with the Ordinance was regarding the oversight. With the second Ordinance, that is utilized currently with the State and the Administration believes that that sets a foundation in moving forward with the MBE, WBE and Veterans as well. He stated that more research is needed with the Solicitor, Finance Director and Purchasing Agent.

Solicitor Rawson stated that, as to the research aspect, he would need more time.

Councilmember Vargas stated that she reached out to Durinda Keene at the State Durinda, who is Acting Associate Director for the Office of Diverse Equity and Opportunity and the Compliance Office and also the Assistant Administrator of MBE and she was not available today, however, she has stated to her that she would be more than happy to help the City and answer questions with this if this is continued to the next meeting.

On motion by Councilmember Donegan, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: line #99, delete “minorities” and add “women”. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilmember Donegan, seconded by Councilmember Germain, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: delete lines #101 and 102 in its entirety and add: “Preference for Local Businesses, Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises”. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilmember Donegan, seconded by Councilmember Germain, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as follows: line #108, after “(6%)”, add “for consideration as an MBE and/or an WBE, the Business Enterprise must provide documentation from the State of Rhode Island Office of Diversity Equity and Opportunity certifying the Business Enterprise as an MBE and/or WBE”. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Donegan stated that for the next meeting, we should think about what the number should be in line #110 of the Ordinance. It could be a percentage of the overall project or it could be lower. He also stated that further conversation can be held next month.

On motion by Councilmember Donegan, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tangible Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Germain, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Denials**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Denials as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

8-20-01 Ordinance Authorizing the City to Utilize Western Road Impact Fees for the Engineering for Traffic Improvements at Two Major Intersections. Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilmember Brady stated that there are major issues in the Natick Ave./Phenix Ave./Wilbur Ave. and Hope Rd. area, specifically Natick Ave. and Phenix Ave. intersection at the off ramp of Route 37. There have been constant issues of speeding and accidents in that area. He asked to be added as co-sponsor. He also asked how the fees are expected to be spent. Director Parrillo stated that they will go to a contractor that will do traffic safety checks and they will be getting input from the public. That is pretty much what most of the money will be used for.

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

8-20-02 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 3.08 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Contracts and Purchases” (Creating the Minority Owned Business Enterprise, Women Minority Owned Business Enterprise and Veteran Owned Business Enterprise). Sponsored by Councilmembers Vargas, Donegan and Germain.

Councilmember Vargas asked that this Ordinance be continued to next month’s meeting in order to have Ms. Keene from the State attend the meeting.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to continue this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Loan Order Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the City of Cranston. Sponsored by Mayor Fung.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Director Strom stated that there were three bonds that were available to us and there would be a major advantage to the City if we go out and refinance this over a period of fourteen years. The savings would be upwards over \$700,000 during this time over what we are currently paying. We are currently paying between 3 and 4.75%, this would be under 2%. The market right now is very strong to do a refinance. It is a win win for the City.

Councilmember Germain stated that she would like to know more about this Resolution and she will be abstaining.

Councilmembers Paplauskas, Brady, Hopkins and Council Vice-President Favicchio asked to be added as co-sponsors.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed on a vote of 5-0 with 1 abstention. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilmembers Donegan, Brady, Paplauskas, Hopkins and Council Vice-President Favicchio -5. Councilmember Germain abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees