

*(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, November 9, 2020 via Zoom Webinar.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 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:            Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration  
                                 Robert Strom, Finance Director  
                                 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor  
                                 Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk  
                                 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
                                 Ron Ronzio, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Councilmember Donegan, seconded by Councilmember Hopkins, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Councilmember Paplauskas** welcomed Council Members-Elect Robert Ferri, Nicole Renzulli, Matthew Reilly and Jessica Marino to the meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**City Clerk** stated that training on e-recording will be starting soon and we continue to test the system and we are moving forward.

**Chair** asked that this item be continued to the full City Council meeting.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Germain, it was voted to continue this item to the full City Council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**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. Amended 10/26/2020**

**Councilmember Donegan** stated that he was going to ask that this Ordinance be continued. He is waiting for some information from the Administration, which he asked for today and some information from the State.

**Director Strom** stated that he had his Assistant send out information today and asked Councilmember Donegan if he received it. Councilmember Donegan stated, yes, he did.

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

**9-20-07 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3.16 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Property Tax Classification” (Change of Tax Value for Commercial Renewable Energy Systems). Sponsored by Councilmember Stycos. Cont. from 10/26/2020 Council meeting.**

**Chair** stated that Councilmember Stycos, sponsor, asked that this be continued to the December meeting.

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to the December meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**9-20-08 Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of Chapter 3.16 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Property Tax Exemption” (Tangible Property Exemption). Sponsored by Council Vice-President Favicchio. Cont. from 10/26/2020 Council meeting. .**

**Chair** stated that he has not spoken to Director Strom regarding this and would like Director Strom to address this. He asked that this Ordinance be continued to next month’s meeting.

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Germain, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to the December meeting.

Under Discussion:

**Director Strom** stated that he did an analysis. If we upped the exemption to \$6,000, that would be another 191 accounts and would generate approximately \$34,000 reduction of revenue and benefit to the taxpayers. He is not opposed to this, but he is concerned that he would like to see what the State is going to do about their budget.

**Chair** stated that this Ordinance could be continued to see what the State does.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Ordinance to the December meeting and motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution urging Mayor Fung to fund \$4.1 million from Cranston's Cumulative Surplus to the Cranston Public Schools. Sponsored by Council President Farina. Cont. from 10/26/2020 Council meeting.**

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Donegan, it was voted to continue this Resolution to the December meeting.

Under Discussion:

**Director Strom** stated that he wants the City Council to know his feelings before anything is done on this. He can wait to make his remarks when this comes up for discussion and vote.

**Chair** asked Director Strom to go forward and address this.

**Director Strom** stated that the Charter states that transfers can only be made in the Fourth Quarter. This is something that should be done in the Fourth Quarter. His recommendation is to wait until the State of Rhode adopts the Budget.

**Chair** stated that it seems to him that this would violate the new Charter provision.

**Councilmember Donegan** stated that he is not opposed to tabling this, but he would like to give Council President Farina the courtesy of addressing this or withdrawing it.

**Councilmember Paplauskas** stated that this can be continued to next month and if the Sponsor is present, it will be addressed then.

**Councilmember Germain** agreed.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Ordinance to the December meeting and motion passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilmember Donegan, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to approve the above list of Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilmember Hopkins, seconded by Councilmember Paplauskas, it was voted to approve the above list of Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tangible Tax Abatements**

On motion by Councilmember Paplauskas, seconded by Councilmember Donegan, it was voted to approve the above list of Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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