

(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).

SPECIAL MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-APRIL 3, 2021-

A Special meeting of the City Council was held on Saturday, April 3, 2021 via Zoom Webinar.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by the Council President.

Roll call showed the following members present: Councilwoman Marino, Councilman Ferri, Councilwomen Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Council

Also Present: Anthony Moretti, Director of Administration; Robert Strom, Director of Finance; John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor; David Dimaio, City Council Budget Analyst.

-APRIL 3, 2021-



CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting - Docket
Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas, Presiding

Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Webinar Meeting

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.
When: Apr 3, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: Special City Council

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85383398484?pwd=ZGZIRDhaNHdHSzlnVNTc0S0pOUEdoZz09>

Passcode: 243366

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13017158592,,85383398484#,,,,*243366# or +13126266799,,85383398484#,,,,*243366#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 9128 or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 853 8339 8484

Passcode: 243366

- **Call to order** by the Council President; council member attendance taken
(*No votes taken*)

In Accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Section 6.08, I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council to be held on **Saturday, April 3, 2021** at 9:00 a.m.

at which meeting a public hearing shall be held on the following:

Operating Budget for the ensuing fiscal year, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

Resolution Adopting the Operating Budget and Salary Schedule for the General Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Insurance Fund and the Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and adopting the Capital Improvement Program for the four succeeding years. (*no vote will be taken*)

Ordinance Making Annual Appropriation for the City of Cranston for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. (*no vote will be taken*)

Resolution Levying and Ordering the Assessment and Collection of a Tax on Ratable Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property Pursuant to Section 6.11 of the Home Rule Charter; (*no vote will be taken*)

Ordinance Fixing the Date When Taxes Are Assessed, Due and Payable and the Date When Unpaid Taxes Will Carry a Penalty. (*no vote will be taken*)

I hereby request the City Clerk to notify all Council members of the Call of the special meeting.

Executed at Cranston, Rhode Island, this 30th day of March, 2021.

- **Adjournment** (*Vote will be taken*)

/s/ Christopher G. Paplauskas, Council President

-APRIL 3, 2021-

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that a true copy of the attached Notice of a Special meeting of the City Council to be held on Saturday, April 3, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m. via Zoom Webinar, was hand delivered and delivered via electronic mail on the 30th day of March 2021 to the addresses listed below.

Councilman Robert J. Ferri
2426 Cranston St.
Cranston, RI 02920
Robferri2426@gmail.com

Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
799 Natick Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920
marinoforcranston@gmail.com

Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
54 Massachusetts St.
Cranston, RI 02920
nicoleforcranston@gmail.com

Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas
35 Betsey Williams Dr.
Cranston, RI 02910
Lammis.vargas@gmail.com

Councilwoman Aniece Germain
63 Dale Ave.
Cranston, RI 02910
Aniecegermain2@gmail.com

Councilman John P. Donegan
60 Packard St.
Cranston, RI 02910
JohnDoneganForCranston@gmail.com

Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
27 Dellwood Rd.
Cranston, RI 02920
mreillyesq@gmail.com

Council Vice-President Edward J. Brady
12 Thunder Trail
Cranston, RI 02921
Brady4cranston@gmail.com

Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas
14 Highland St.
Cranston, RI 02920
chrispaplauskas@gmail.com

/s/ Cranston Patrol Officer Rebecca Neri

-APRIL 3, 2021-

Council President Paplauskas stated that any departments not heard today before the Special Finance Committee meeting will be referred to a future Budget Hearing.

Public Comments:

Paula McFarland, 100 Pomham St., appeared to speak on several areas of the budget. She thanked everyone for taking their Saturday morning and her Saturday morning to hear a most comprehensive portion of our budget, which she thought was odd that we would have so many areas of our budget that are so comprehensive to our City and they would be heard on a Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. They could have been split up in a better manner. She addressed the no rate and assessed values on properties and stated that she looked at the Building Department and it was interesting to see that Building Inspections permits are not really at a substantially high level in the last few years given the fact that we are in a housing boom and that means and that tells her that many of the people are repairing their homes without getting permits. It also speaks to the fact that the no rate and assessment rate properties are being assessed outside and not in the interior of their properties. She also finds it unusually that the commercial rate was given a better break on their reassessment than the homeowners of the City of Cranston. Theirs was substantially lowered where ours was not and that was concerning to her. She also looked at the fact that there is an influx of revenue coming from the American Relief Act. This is a one-time influx in the budget. That is not future money that will be here for the remainder of the duration and looking at some of the expenses, that is concerning. Our economy is just starting to boom back and those people who have been out of work and to see those reassessments from \$300-\$500-\$600 more in their property taxes for next year is also disheartening given the fact that people are still not back to work. It is really the wrong time to ask for people to give that kind of money. She asked that everyone take the time to look at this budget. She commended the Mayor on the improvements that he has been making in the City and hopefully those improvements are not impacted into this budget and they are through grant opportunities or using CDBG funds. She thanked the City Council and the Mayor for the work and dedication to our City.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

/s/ Leanne Zarrella, D
City Clerk

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