

(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, March 7, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
 Councilman John P. Donegan
 Councilman Richard D. Campopiano
 Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, Vice-Chair
 Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
 Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri

Also Present: Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 David Dimaio, Council Budget Analyst
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 David Dimaio, City Council Budget Analyst
 Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to dispense with the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS* and/or NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

- ***Potential for Cranston's participation in the RI Community Septic System Loan Program and the RI Sewer Tie-In Loan Program (Councilwoman Marino) Cont. from 2/7/2022.***

Director Moretti stated that last week or week before, Councilwoman Marino was in the Mayor's Office and there was a discussion with him, the Mayor and Director Mason and everyone was in agreement that this could be worked out and we will try to implement this program. He believes that the way it was left is that there was a cost involved and he believes it was referred to in the past as a Wastewater Mitigation Plan that needs to be submitted to DEM. He believes that it was also left that Director Mason was going to be seeking bids to provide that service and he knows that that is in process and we will be potentially awarding money of approximately \$20,000 - \$25,000. Director Mason did indicate that it would take several months to gain that study, have it documented and submitted to DEM.

Councilwoman Marino stated that this item was placed on the agenda before that meeting was held and we are on track and we can circle back later on to see what the status is with Public Works.

- ***Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements***

On motion by Councilman Campopiano, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by the City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Tax Assessment Board of Review assessed December 31, 2020***

Informational Only. No action needed.

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Approvals***

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waivers as recommended by the City Treasurer.

2-22-01 Ordinance ratifying School Committee's Collective Bargaining Agreement with Rhode Island Laborers District Council 1322, Tradespeople/Mechanic Unit.

Joseph Balducci, Chief Financial Officer for the School Department, appeared to speak and stated that with him is Mike Crudele, Chief Human Resource Officer for the School District.

Council President Paplauskas asked how many employees this encompasses in total. Mr. Balducci stated twelve at this time.

Council President Paplauskas asked Director Strom for his input on the fiscal note and any comments he has. Director Strom stated that based on his discussion with Director Balducci, increase has been budgeted in FY 2022-2023.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

Council President Paplauskas stated that this is Director Strom's last Finance Committee meeting and thanked him for all the years of service over the years and wished him well.

Director Strom stated that he has been with the City for thirteen years, twelve with former Mayor Fung and one with Mayor Hopkins and, financially, Cranston is in a better place than it was when he first came to the City and will even be better going forward. He thanked everyone for their support over the years and enjoyed working with everyone.

Council President Paplauskas indicated that there will be a special Council meeting on March 14, 2022 to introduce the Advice and Consent item the new Finance Director and that will be by Zoom only.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk