

(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 FINANCE COMMITTEE – APRIL 27, 2022
(BUDGET HEARINGS)

A special meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
 Councilman Richard D. Campopiano (appeared at 6:10 pm)
 Councilman John P. Donegan
 Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
 Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
 Councilman Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair
 Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Also Present: Councilwoman Aniece Germain
 Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas
 Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff
 Christopher Rawson, Assistant City Solicitor
 Michael Igoe, City Controller
 David DiMaio, City Council Budget Analyst
 Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk

Chair asked if there were any members of the public in Chambers or on Zoom that would like to speak regarding the budget.

Public Speakers:

Superintendent Jeanine Nota-Masse appeared to speak as Superintendent of Schools and also as a Cranston resident. She asked that the School Budget be fully funded as requested.

Domenic Fusco, 167 Fiat Ave., School Committee Member representing Ward 3, appeared via Zoom and asked that the School Budget be fully funded as requested.

Councilman Donegan asked Mr. Igoe, if the Council were to level fund everything that is not contractual obligation, how much would that save the City? Mr. Igoe stated that he would have to take the time to calculate that. He could do that for the next meeting. Councilman Donegan asked Mr. Igoe if he could do that at his earliest convenience it would be greatly appreciated. He also stated, for the record, he would be against the increase to the Schools because the Maintenance of Efforts would be increased by \$1 million.

Council President Paplauskas stated that this is the last Finance Committee meeting on the budget. Obviously, it has been a very tough budget. We have a structural deficit that we are trying to all close and he would like to thank the Finance Committee and all the members of the Committee for all the work over the past five or six weeks.

Council President Paplauskas stated that he has a few amendments this evening, but because of the challenges that we have, he is going to hold some of his amendments and keep working through the next week until we get to the next meeting.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to reduce line item #101-1105-5110 City Clerk Salaries by \$45,592; line item #101-1105-51300 Payroll Taxes reduced by \$3,487; line item #101-1105-51301 Pension decreased by \$5,498 and line item #101-1105-51304 Group Insurance decrease of \$96.

Under Discussion:

Council President Paplauskas stated that these amendments are reducing it by half a year because we won't have a new City Clerk most likely until January when the new Council sits so he is reducing that to when that happens.

Councilwoman Vargas asked if the decreased amount being allocated elsewhere or is it to fully remove those dollar amounts from the actual proposal. Council President Paplauskas stated that what he would like to do is remove this from structural deficit, the \$54,673 so in essence it would go back to the COVID19 stimulus.

Councilman Donegan asked before the Council starts making amendments, how large the structural deficit is in the Budget the Mayor proposed. Mr. Dimaio stated that currently, the budget has an infusion from ARPA of \$12 million. That is the structural deficit and \$7 million that is going to a one-time expense.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Marino, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Councilwoman Renzulli, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -7.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the savings from the City Clerk's Account of \$54,673 and place it in #49135 COVID19 Stimulus. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Marino, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Councilwoman Renzulli, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -7.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to amend line item #101-1107-51100 Municipal Court Salaries and decrease it by \$7,500 starting January 1, 2023. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Marino, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Councilwoman Renzulli, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -7.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to amend line item #101-1107-51300 Municipal Court Payroll Taxes and decrease it by \$573. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Marino, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Councilwoman Renzulli, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -7.

On motion by Council President Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to place \$8,073 in line item #49135 COVID19 Stimulus. Motion passed on a vote of 7-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Marino, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Councilwoman Renzulli, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -7.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk