

(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, May 2, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
 Councilman Richard D. Campopiano
 Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
 Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, Vice-Chair
 Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair
 Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent: Councilman John P. Donegan

Also Present: Councilwoman Aniece Germain
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 Michael Igoe, Acting Finance Director
 Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

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

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None.

II. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS* and/or NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

- *Status of City grants from grant writer (Councilwoman Marino).*

Lisa Andoscia, City Council Grant Writer, appeared to speak and presented a handout.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to enter the handout presented by Ms. Andoscia into the record. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Andoscia stated that she is present this evening at the request of Councilwoman Marino and asked if there are any questions for her.

Councilwoman Marino stated that with respect to our Ordinance, it is designated that on a monthly Finance Committee meeting, the Council should hear from the Grant Writer with respect to perspective Grants and status of those and quarterly before the full City Council we are to hear from the Council Grant Writer with respect to pending Grant status. It has been a number of months and there has not been a lot of inquiries so its was helpful for her to appear this evening for a status update of prospective Grants and anything else she would like to add.

Ms. Andoscia stated that she has been furnishing reports on Grants that have been secured. She is absolutely delighted to share that a little over a year, she has been able to secure \$745,000. That has been from RI Commerce for site readiness, rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan, Knightsville Gazebo, RI Commerce Take It Outside to benefit restaurants and small businesses, RI Foundation partnering with CCAP for food security and the Congressional CDS Grant for Knightsville at \$300,000. She thinks there are going to be a few more Grants and we are going to make a million dollars. Grants that have been submitted and not awarded include RI DEM for Knightsville streetscape \$400,000, RI Commerce which they have a program called "RI Rebound" for Knightsville Gazebo \$295,000 and there were two Congressional Community Projects that were submitted to Congressman Langevin's Office, to Senator Whitehouse and to Senator Reed. She thanked the Council for signing on to the letter of support and advocacy. Those two projects, one is for the indoor shooting range and the other is the Budlong Pool to modernize it. Also submitted was the State ARP for the shooting range. Additional priorities, she continues to look for Grant funding that has come to her attention is the bike path crossing and Friendly Park.

- *Additional Funding for Rhode Island Tree Council. Council President Paplauskas.*
- *Funding for one cross alert system for bike path. Council President Paplauskas.*

Council President Paplauskas stated that last year's Budget, the Council created an extra Council Contingency Account and there was a little bit of funding left over. If the Council agrees, he would like to have some money sent to the RI Tree Council, who had asked for some more. We could also try to get one cross alert system purchased and installed. It does not have to be done this evening. The Council could take this up during the budget amendment or adoption.

Councilman Reilly stated that these are very nice things and does not oppose to them when it comes to their merit, but he thinks it needs to be a little more equitable and perhaps if there is \$19,000, divide it by the six Wards and let the Ward person do something nice in their Ward and it is dispersed throughout the entire community and not just for one or two things.

- *Real Estate Tax Abatements*

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

- *Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements*

On motion by Councilman Reilly, 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 Interest Waiver Approvals*

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

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk