

*(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**

**-MAY 4, 2022-**

A Special meeting of the City Council was called held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

Roll call showed the following members present: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli (left at 1:00 a.m.), Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

Also Present: Mayor Kenneth Hopkins; Anthony Moretti, Chief of Staff; Christopher Millea, City Solicitor (arrived at 8:00 p.m.); Christopher Rawson, Assistant City Solicitor (left at 8:00 p.m.); Michael Igoe, City Controller; Daniel Parrillo, Director of Personnel; Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel; David Dimaio, City Council Budget Analyst.

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## **CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL**

### **Special Meeting - Docket**

**Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas**

***WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.***

Special Meeting of the Cranston City Council will be held **in the Cranston City Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910**, in accordance with Section 3.07 of the Home Rule Charter and Section 2.04.060 of the City Code for the purpose of considering the following items listed on the docket.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83320980136?pwd=dWk2NVlyNHlmMzFPZ0tnbktCM1A3UT09>

Passcode: 218852

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,83320980136#,,,,\*218852# or +13017158592,,83320980136#,,,,\*218852#

Or Telephone:

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

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 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: 833 2098 0136

Passcode: 218852

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83320980136?pwd=dWk2NVlyNHlmMzFPZ0tnbktCM1A3UT09>

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## **Agenda and Docketed Matters Before the Council**

- **Call to order** by Council President; council members attendance taken

In Accordance with Section 3.07 and 6.03 of the Home Rule Charter and Section 2.04.060 of the City Code, I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council to be held on **Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.,**

at which meeting the following items of business shall be transacted

### **Adoption of Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023:**

- **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, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 and adopting the Capital improvement Program for the four succeeding years.**
- **Ordinance Making Annual Appropriation for the City of Cranston for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.**
- **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;**

**-MAY 4, 2022-**

- **Ordinance Fixing the Date When Taxes Are Assessed, Due and Payable and the Date When Unpaid Taxes Will Carry a Penalty**

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

Executed at Cranston, Rhode Island, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

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/s/ Christopher G. Paplauskas, Council President

Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing-impaired must notify the Office of the City Clerk at 461-1000 Ext. 3197 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the hearing date.”

- **Adjournment**

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**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that a true copy of the attached Notice of a Special meeting of the City Council to be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island delivered via electronic mail on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022 to the addresses listed below.

Councilman Robert J. Ferri  
2426 Cranston St.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[Robferri2426@gmail.com](mailto:Robferri2426@gmail.com)

Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino  
799 Natick Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[marinoforcranston@gmail.com](mailto:marinoforcranston@gmail.com)

Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli  
54 Massachusetts St.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[nicoleforcranston@gmail.com](mailto:nicoleforcranston@gmail.com)

Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas  
35 Betsey Williams Dr.  
Cranston, RI 02910  
[Lammis.vargas@gmail.com](mailto:Lammis.vargas@gmail.com)

Councilwoman Aniece Germain  
63 Dale Ave.  
Cranston, RI 02910  
[Aniecegermain2@gmail.com](mailto:Aniecegermain2@gmail.com)

Councilman John P. Donegan  
60 Packard St.  
Cranston, RI 02910  
[JohnDoneganForCranston@gmail.com](mailto:JohnDoneganForCranston@gmail.com)

Councilman Matthew R. Reilly  
27 Dellwood Rd.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[mreillyesq@gmail.com](mailto:mreillyesq@gmail.com)

Councilman Richard D. Campopiano  
1640 Pippin Orchard Rd.  
Cranston, RI 02921  
[RD.Camp@yahoo.com](mailto:RD.Camp@yahoo.com)

Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas  
14 Highland St.  
Cranston, RI 02920  
[chrispaplauskas@gmail.com](mailto:chrispaplauskas@gmail.com)

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/s/ Rosalba Zanni  
Acting City Clerk

**-MAY 4, 2022-**

**Council President Paplauskas** acknowledged the following members present in the Chambers: School Committee Member Domenic Fusco, School Committee Chair Daniel Wall, former Council President Michael Farina, former Mayor and School Committee Member Michael Traficante and former Council Member Steven Stycos.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that Mayor Hopkins is also present this evening and asked to address the City Council. Mayor Hopkins stated that five weeks ago, he fulfilled his responsibility and presented to the City Council the budget plan for the next year. The City Council has reviewed that proposal over the last several weeks so it can meet its responsibility of adopting the budget by May 15<sup>th</sup>. He has spoken to several Council members over the last month and he has listened to some remarks and comments in recent days and he would like to clarify and support his budget decisions as the City Council considers possible changes or modifications. He reminded all residents that he presented a balanced budget to the City Council. A balanced budget as required by law. That concept has seemed to escape some of the public comments. In a \$330 million budget, he has identified levels of spending in the corresponding revenue to pay for those items. The proposed Operating and Capital Budgets meet the needs of our city. It will allow us to deliver essential City services and meet the constituent needs overall Cranstonians. We can debate specific line items, but in the end, he is comfortable with the level of spending that he has proposed. Are there some items that could be modified, certainly. At the request of some of the Republican members of the Council, his Administration took another look at all the City departments in the budget. At their urging, he has identified some adjustments, which he will support and will be shared shortly, but to be clear, he will only support those changes that meet the fundamental principles used in building this budget: 1) to provide for a proper level of funding for Cranston Schools, our students and their families; 2) the adequate funding of all Police and Fire Departments to protect our residents and to keep our neighborhoods safe; 3) to allow us to keep meeting effective constituent services and to deliver expected services in Public Works, Recreation and Senior Services; 4) meeting our contractual agreements and Capital Debt obligations to protect our bond rating and earn respect in the financial markets. This year we pretty much level funded departments with the exception of commitments and contractual obligations, however, he reminded everyone that we had to account for many expense increases and some loss of revenue beyond our control. That included \$7 million for several years of Claims and Health Insurance deficiencies as identified by the City Council Independent Auditor hired by them for the last Fiscal Year. Our retired Finance Director praised by everyone disclosed to him before he retired that the Auditor General wanted that matter addressed. Rather than kick the can down the road, he chose to lead on that issue and fund it now to put it behind us. \$750,000 for increased cost of garbage pickup and tipping fees at the State Landfill; \$172,000 for increased rental of Fire Hydrants from the City of Providence; \$138,000 for this year's Primary and General Elections; \$1.46 million for contracted employee obligations and step increases; \$650,000 for increase in Health Insurance costs; increase in our debt service of \$1.7 million for Capital projects including new this year an additional \$1.2 million for our School projects; \$1.3 million in lost State and under the long-standing distressed community formula. These are not irresponsible spending items as some of the comments he has heard, but actual obligations of our City beyond his direct control. He is somewhat amazed that Council Vice-President Ferri is unwilling to pay an additional \$114 to help support City Services or that Councilwoman Marino argues that an additional payment of \$231 is unacceptable. His own taxes are going up \$170. He is willing to do his part.

**Councilwoman Marino** asked for a point of order. Council President Paplauskas asked that Mayor Hopkins not call out Council Members by name during his speech. Councilwoman Marino stated to Council President Paplauskas, that as a point of order, he has given the Mayor the opportunity to stand here before us this evening though protocol does not technically allow it and as a point of order, she takes great offense to the Mayor standing before the Council and calling out two members of this distinguished body in such a negative way and that should be reflected on the record and that should reflect the Mayor's decorum this evening.

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**Council President Paplauskas** asked Mayor Hopkins to finish his statement.

**Mayor Hopkins** stated that some nominal increases will help us fill the budget gap that we faced. The remaining difference in revenue, a need to balance the budget, was filled by using available ARPA funds. Use of ARPA funds under these circumstances is exactly what they were intended for. He chose this route rather than asking the individual homeowner to pay more. While he understands some more progressive members in the community would prefer that we spend the money on social programs, he believes the direct taxpayer assistance to support payment for things like infrastructure should be a priority. Will there be budget challenges next year and going forward? Absolutely, yes, there will be, but he will provide the financial management to keep our City's finances healthy and in a responsible and effective posture. As he stated on April 1<sup>st</sup>, this budget reflects his commitment to keep Cranston moving forward. We will meet the challenges that have been put before us. Cranston was just recently recognized as the 24<sup>th</sup> best City out of 286 in the entire USA. His commitment is to keep us a top-rated community with strong financial management and great City services. This proposed budget meets those objectives. He thanked the City Council for their time and consideration.

**Council President Paplauskas** asked if there are any amendments.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** stated that she has several amendments this evening. The cuts that she makes this evening, she would like to return back to ARPA pool of money to reduce the structural deficit.

**Mr. Dimaio** clarified that any amendments that are made that will go back to the levy, the calculation will be done at the end of the night. Any amendments that will be going back to the ARPA funds, it is not necessarily a decrease in an increase. It will actually be a decrease to an item and a decrease to the money that is being funded for the structural deficit.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1101-52000 Executive – Office Supplies and Expenses by a decrease of \$500.00. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1101-52114 Executive – Public Observances and Holidays by a decrease of \$2,500.00. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$3,000 made from line items #1101-52000 and 1101-52114 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1102-52213 City Council – Stenographic by a decrease of \$4,000.00. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1102-52214 City Council – Orders of the Council by a decrease of \$14,900.00. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$18,900 made from line items #1102-52213 and 1102-52214 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas - 8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1104-51200 Personnel – Part-Time Help by a decrease of \$15,000. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cut of \$15,000 made from line item #1104-51200 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1108-51001 Board of Canvassers - Overtime by a decrease of \$3,000.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** stated that given that it is Election year, he asked how this may impact Election functions within the City. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that Director Lima has expressed that he is willing to do more with less. Councilman Donegan stated that he feels that perhaps this department in particular should be asked to do that given the nature it being an Election year, it being a year where we have Redistricting, new polling places, new Wards. He just does not think we should take away from the Canvassers Department given this year.

Roll call was taken on the above motion and motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1108-52610 Canvassing - Elections by a decrease of \$14,000.  
Under Discussion:

**Council Vice-President Ferri** asked if this was discussed during the Department Budget hearing where the Director agreed to this cut. Council President Paplauskas stated that some Directors went back to their budget and are offering cuts to help us with the structural deficit. Council Vice-President Ferri asked who and when took place in these meetings. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that the Administration had these meetings. Councilman Donegan stated that if every department went through their budget and suggested places that they could cut, he asked if that document can be shared with the entire City Council this way everyone could be privy to totality of what we are talking about this evening and not just doing this piecemeal and also have the opportunity to have reviewed such substantive changes prior to voting on the City's \$330 million budget would have been incredibly helpful, but apparently that is not something that is extended to every member of the Council. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that what she has is a spreadsheet she created which has a mix of things she brought to the Administration, things she discussed with her colleagues in caucus and then ideas that spun off of that when the Administration was going back through kind of at the request of all the Council Members to have everyone look for more cuts. So this is not information that is privy to her. She just kept showing up at City Hall asking them to ask for more cuts. She thinks that Councilman Donegan was afforded the same opportunity and she does not want him to feel left out, but she can share her document with him if he shares his.

**Council President Paplauskas** called for a fifteen-minute recess in order to let everyone look at what the cuts are and copies will be provided to everyone and the Council will then come back to the meeting.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1109-52004 Planning – Departmental Expenses by a decrease of \$500.00. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1109-52004 Planning – Public Hearings by a decrease of \$500.00. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cut of \$500.00 made from line item #1109-52004 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1110-52752 Department of Economic Development - Marketing by a decrease of \$1,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1110-52753 Department of Economic Development – Program Activities by a decrease of \$500.00. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1111-51100 Inspections – Salary Schedule by a decrease of \$86,960.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** asked if the \$86,960 reduction is for the one position. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that that is for the one position as well as it should reflect an IOD that is out that the Administration believes will be delayed coming back. Councilman Donegan asked how much it would be if we separated those two out and what the difference would be. Mr. Dimaio stated that the vacant position, the Payroll number is \$50,198 and the remaining balance is \$36,762. Councilman Donegan questioned if Councilwoman Renzulli would be willing to keep the new Inspections position in there. Having heard from many residents over the past three years, he feels that this is one of the departments of significant need within the City given the aging state of housing and the issues that are brought to our attention, he thinks a new Housing position is actually one that is well needed.

**Councilman Donegan** motioned to amend the above line item to reduce the \$86,960 to \$36,762. Councilwoman Marino seconded the motion and motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council Vice-President Ferri -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilman Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cut of \$36,762.00 made from line item #111-51100 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1112-51100 Finance Department - Salary Schedule by a decrease of \$35,000. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1112-51300 Finance Department – Payroll Taxes by a decrease of \$2,677. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1112-51301 Finance Department – Pension Contribution by a decrease of \$4,308. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1112-51302 Finance Department – Hospitalization by a decrease of \$5,600. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1112-52900 Finance Department – Bank Charges by a decrease of \$1,500. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$49,085 made from line items #1112-51100, 51300, 51301, 51302 and 52900 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1116-52002 IT – Supplies by a decrease of \$4,000 (level funded). Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1116-52933 IT – Technology Upgrades by a decrease of \$50,000. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas 5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cut of \$50,000 made from line item #1116-52933 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1117-52941 Department of Treasury & Collections - Postage by a decrease of \$5,000. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas 5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to take the total cut of \$5,000 made from line item #1117-52941 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1200-51100 Fire Department – Salary Schedule by a decrease of \$31,380. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1200-51108 Fire Department – Severance by a decrease of \$30,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1200-52000 Fire Department – Office Supplies & Expenses by a decrease of \$1,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1200-52004 Fire Department – Expenses by a decrease of \$1,000. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1200-52006 Fire Department – Equipment Repairs by a decrease of \$20,000. Motion failed on a vote of 3-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -3. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain and Councilman Donegan -4. Councilman Reilly and Council Vice-President Ferri were not present for roll call vote.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1200-53012 Fire Department – Fire Fighting Equipment by a decrease of \$2,000. Motion passed on a vote of 6-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -6. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2. Councilman Reilly was not present for roll call vote.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1200-53013 Fire Department – Hazardous Materials by a decrease of \$10,000. Motion failed on a vote of 3-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -3. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -2. Councilman Reilly was not present for roll call vote.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1200-53014 Fire Department – Homeland Security Expense by a decrease of \$7,000. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -8. Council Vice-President Ferri was not present for roll call vote.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1200-53017 Fire Department – Medical Supplies by a decrease of \$5,000. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Vargas, Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1200-53018 Fire Department – Other Equipment by a decrease of \$5,000. Motion passed on a vote of 6-3. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -3.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1200-53019 Fire Department – Protective Equipment (Clothing) by a decrease of \$5,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1200-53021 Fire Department – Tires and Tubes by a decrease of \$2,000. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$53,380 made from line items #1200-51100, 52004, 53012, 53014, 53017, 53018 and 53021 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1201-53111 Fire Alarm – Computer Maintenance and Repairs by a decrease of \$10,000. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Renzulli, Germain, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1201-53112 Fire Alarm – Radio Maintenance by a decrease of \$10,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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**-MAY 4, 2022-**

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$10,000 made from line item #1201-53111 and 53021 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1202-51100 Police Department – Salary Schedule by a decrease of \$151,461.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Renzulli** stated that this is due to some retirements which would be taking place this summer. The Colonel indicated that they would not be replaced right away.

**Council Vice-President Ferri** asked Administration how it is possible that they did not know there was going to be \$151,000 decrease in Payroll for the Police Department when we had the budget hearings. Director Moretti stated that he stated that he thinks it proper to give a perspective as to what the Colonel and actually the IBPO have thought about. He also stated that there was word out on the street that perhaps the Council may be eliminating or reducing the number of Police cars. They felt collectively that it was critical to make sure that that was not part of the budget reductions. Instead, they thought they wanted to be proactive holding off until July hiring two individuals and there was a third person that is expected to retire sometime during the Fiscal Year and not to replace that person. The intention of this was they would have preferred if cuts were necessary to take it from that line item because the IBPO and brass believes that they could manage the department with those head counts down. They strongly felt that the vehicles were basically their office and they preferred to have the reductions in the staffing which they felt they could manage versus reductions in vehicles.

**Councilman Donegan** asked how that will affect overtime. Director Moretti stated that that was the first question he had and they are saying that they would control it and it would not be affected and that is coming from the Colonel.

**Councilwoman Marino** addressed the statement made by Director Moretti that there was a rumor that the Council is looking to reduce the number of Police cars. She finds that greatly offensive that rumors are what is to operate our City. She can state publicly that she does not know where that rumor came from. She, herself and believes every member of the Council strongly supports the Police Department and that budget discussions outside of scheduled Finance meetings in that regard is troublesome for a variety of reasons. Director Moretti stated that he can assure everyone that the Administration was not spreading rumor. This came from the Police Department to the Administration that they were concerned and he has been told that they have expressed that concern to various Council Member or Members.

**Councilman Donegan** stated that as the Democratic Caucus Majority Leader, he confirmed for the public record that that rumor did not emanate from the Democratic Caucus. He asked the Administration if any other budgetary items are based on rumors within the budget. Director Moretti stated, no, not to his knowledge.

**Council Vice-President Ferri** stated that that he would like it stated in the record that he is offended for the second time tonight and he agrees with Councilwoman Marino’s statements.

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Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to vote as a block amendments to line item #1202-51105, 51106, 51300, 51301, 51304 and 51406 Police Department – Salary Schedule, Legal Holiday Pay, Longevity, Payroll Taxes, Pension Contribution, Group Life Insurance and Uniform Cleaning Allowance. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to approve as a block amendments to line item #1202-51105, 51106, 51300, 51301, 51304 and 51406 Police Department – Salary Schedule, Legal Holiday Pay, Longevity, Payroll Taxes, Pension Contribution, Group Life Insurance and Uniform Cleaning Allowance reductions in the amounts of \$15,020; \$20,185; \$2,744; \$35,710; \$480 and \$2,600 respectively,. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$228,200 made from group #1202 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1302-51100 Division of Highway Maintenance – Salary Schedule by a decrease of \$46,588. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1302-52006 Division of Highway Maintenance – Equipment Repairs by a decrease of \$3,000. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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**-MAY 4, 2022-**

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1302-54200 Division of Highway Maintenance – Construction & Reconstruction by a decrease of \$15,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$49,588 from group #1302 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1304-52004 Division of Building Maintenance – Departmental Expenses by a decrease of \$3,000. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1304-54401 Division of Building Maintenance – Electrical Supplies by a decrease of \$3,000. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1304-54405 Division of Building Maintenance – Paint and Glass by a decrease of \$3,000. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$9,000 made from group #1304 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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**-MAY 4, 2022-**

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1500-51303 Public Libraries – Hospitalization Buyback by a decrease of \$750.00. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to amend line item #1500-56006 Public Libraries – Library Supplies by a decrease of \$3,500. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1500-56007 Public Libraries – Online Resources by a decrease of \$3,500. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1500-56008 Public Libraries – Operation of Libraries by a decrease of \$8,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$750.00 from group #1500 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 8-1. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -8. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Council Vice-President Ferri -1.

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**Councilwoman Vargas** stated that she finds it appalling that a lot of the questions or cuts that are being posed this evening, the Administration seems to have provided all these motions over to Councilwoman Renzulli and based on the Administration not sharing that information to all the Council Members at any given moment between the time we had the public hearings to where we are now. She feels the Administration should have shared the information to the rest of the Council as they did with Councilwoman Renzulli with explanations. During the Finance Budget hearings, question was posed to each Director asking if they found an area where there are cuts, where would they cut and she thinks if not every Director, pretty much said that the needed it all. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that she badgered the Administration, she offered ideas, she called Mr. Igoe and Mr. Dimaio with questions and come up with ideas to try and find savings and cuts.

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On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Council Vice-President Ferri, it was voted to move the question. Motion passed on a vote of 6-3. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council Vice-President Ferri -6. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -3.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1601-57700 Senior Services – Programs - Instructors by a decrease of \$2,810. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilman Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1601-57002 Senior Services – Programs – Special Activities by a decrease of \$1,000. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilman Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council Vice-President Ferri -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to take the total cuts of \$2,810 from group #1601 and allocate back to the ARPA Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -7. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain and Council Vice-President Ferri -2.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1605-57701 Senior Services – Nutrition – Nutrition Program by a decrease of \$10,000. Motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen and Council President Paplauskas -3. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council Vice-President Ferri -6.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1606-57701 Senior Services – RSVP – Nutrition Program by a decrease of \$1,000. Motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -3. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council Vice-President Ferri -6.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1606-57702 Senior Services – RSVP – Special Activities by a decrease of \$1,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas and Councilman Reilly -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas - 5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to increase line item #1111-42160 Revenues – Inspection of Building Permits by \$100,000. Motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to increase line item #1111-42176 Revenues – Solar Permits by \$50,000.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend Councilwoman Renzulli’s motion increasing line item #42176 by \$131,500 for total of \$442,000.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to amend line item #42176 Solar Permits to \$242,000, an increase of \$131,500. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to move \$131,500 from line item #42176 back into the ARPA funds. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to correct scrivener’s error in line item #1606-47150 Senior Services – RSVP from -0- to \$75,000. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to move \$75,000 from line item #47150 back into the ARPA funds. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

**-MAY 4, 2022-**

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #1282-53209 Rent for Police Station by a decrease of \$9,000. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend Parks and Recreation Receipts Camp since increase in weeks and amount of campers was not taken into consideration and increase Revenue by \$75,000 with reduction of \$25,000 to fund discount program. Actual increase is \$55,000.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to amend line item #45000 Parks and Recreation Receipts increasing Revenue by \$75,000.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

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On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Council Vice-President Ferri, it was voted to increase line item #45000 Parks and Recreation Receipts to \$400,000.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

Roll call was taken on motion made by Councilwoman Renzulli and seconded by Councilman Reilly to amend line item #45000 Parks and Recreation Receipts increasing Revenue by \$75,000 and motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to add \$20,000 to the Expenditure line for camp aid. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to reallocate \$55,000 from line item #45000 back to the ARPA funds. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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**-MAY 4, 2022-**

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to allocate \$9,000 from Police Rent line item back to the ARPA funds until Ordinance for Impact Fees is passed. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to amend line item #0000-41176 Tax Revenue Fiscal Year 2023 increasing it by \$186,270. Motion passed on a vote of 6-3. The following being record as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -6. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -3.

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On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Council Vice-President Ferri, it was voted to decrease ARPA Revenue line item by \$186,270. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Council Vice-President Ferri, it was voted to eliminate 3% salary increase for non-CBA staff totaling \$69,704.42.  
Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** stated that earlier last week, the City Council was provided with a list of discretionary salary increases of 3%. He does not know if it is proper to level-fund all those increase, but based on his estimate, that would be a savings of approximately \$70,000 between salaries and other attached requirements.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** asked Administration or Auditor what other raises are included in the budget. She stated that there are 660 people getting raise and those are contractual and this is separate because these people are not in the Union. She asked if this is correct. Director Parrillo stated that this is correct. The four bargaining units, currently the Laborers, Teamsters, Police and Fire all have contractual raises as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and approximately 22 Directors, who are obviously not in the Union are proposed the 3% raise. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that we are trying to make cuts, but we are also trying to be fair and appreciate the people who are leading the City and we ask a lot of and she does not know how she would feel if everyone around her except for her were getting a standard of living increase.

**Councilman Reilly** stated that he agrees with Councilwoman Renzulli. It would be wholly unfair to provide raise for one group and not the other, however, that is not what our charge is. Our charge is to protect the taxpayers and we are the last line before this budget goes through, unless there are any possible vetoes, there are a lot of things that are put on our laps and we have to make the hard decisions and that is because people before us did not say ‘no’ when they should have. There is only so much money. He would be more than happy to support if a Union came before us with a 1.5% increase and then we will give everybody else a 1.5%, but if all the money goes to one side, there is none left on the other side. It is not fair, but it is also not fair that the City Council has been put in that position. He does not see that it is on the City Council that it is being unfair to anyone. We have been asked to do a job with a finite amount of money and we can’t touch contracts.

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**Councilwoman Marino** stated that we do not have the money. It is not proper to give 3% raises that we just do not have the money for. It is not about people. Some of the Director's positions were new hires of only just a year and a half ago and they started at a salary increase so it is a lot more than 3% for some of those positions and it is just not the right thing to do by the taxpayers and it is not fiscally responsible.

Discussion took place on the amendment and Council President asked if the motion needs to list the Directors by line items. Mr. Igoe stated that since the amendment night last week, those numbers changed due to the fact that there was an amendment to reduce the City Clerk's position to half a year so those numbers are slightly inflated from what they should be.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to remove those non-contractual 3% increases from the budget totaling \$59,209 towards the General Fund. Motion passed on a vote of 7-2. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council Vice-President Ferri -7. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Renzulli and Council President Paplauskas -2.

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On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to reduce the APRA line item by \$59,209. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to amend line item #1103-52311 Legal Department – Salaries by reducing Solicitor Fees to \$134,000.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Marino** stated that the reason for this reduction is, according to our local laws, this department is only supposed to be staffed with a City Solicitor and two Attorneys to assist. Currently, that department has five, which is not consistent with our laws.

**Director Moretti** stated that that being the case, we could not get by inhouse with the current salary structure for the other because we would have to ask the existing Solicitors or replace Solicitors if they can't perform the workload with more than likely higher compensation because the same work would need to be performed within the department so it is going to be more work placed on them and the hours that are placed.

**Council Vice-President Ferri** stated that based on what we are faced with and the situation we are in, we are not asking anyone, but are asking everyone to do more for maybe a little less right now to help every citizen in the City.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** asked Councilwoman Marino if she could identify the law she referred to.

**Councilwoman Marino** referred to City Code Section 2.08.190 Department Law, number of Assistant City Solicitors.

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**Councilman Reilly** stated that he would like to hear from the Solicitor as to what they have to respond to. His concern is that it is a large cut and while there may be a law on the books that says there's only to be two Assistants, we have already seen one amendment tonight that caused us to have to make a change to one of the Ordinances as well and it has been stated from time to time that our City Code is a little backdated so perhaps two is not enough right now.

**Solicitor Millea** stated that the Charter provides for his department to have the amount of City Solicitors that are needed in this department historically. The Law Department, if you look at past years, historically, has gone down in the budget. He employs, right now, five Solicitors that fall under the different areas, such as Municipal Court, Zoning and so forth and so on. It would not be even legally responsible for this City, a City with a \$330 million budget to reduce this department to two Solicitors. By reducing the number of Solicitors, it would only mean that the Outside Legal line item budget would go up exponentially.

**Council President Paplauskas** asked for City Council Legal Counsel to address the issues of the Charter requirements. Attorney Angell stated that the Charter does not speak to the number of Solicitors. Solicitor Millea referred to the broad powers of the Solicitors Department, but by Ordinance, under the Code, the section would seem to be 2.08.190, was quoted accurately, but the Charter does not make any reference to the number of Solicitors.

**Councilwoman Marino** stated, to be clear, it is not just two Assistant Solicitors, it is the main City Solicitor and two Assistant Solicitors, when even in its current function is a part-time job and those two Assistant Solicitors, so the \$134,000 of the budget would be more than sufficient to cover for those expenses.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed on a vote of 5-4. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4.

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On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to reallocate \$80,000 group #1103 to the ARPA funds. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to take \$10,000 from the ARPA funds and appropriate \$20,000 in line item for the Diversity Commission.

Under Discussion:

**Attorney Angell** stated that this raises the question of whether or not it is proper to use ARPA funds and he does not have an answer to that this evening.

**Mr. Dimaio** stated that he would like to look at this further. He asked Solicitor, but he believes that the Ordinance that was passed is that the Administration is to make the allocation and the City Council approve it.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that maybe another line item should be looked at rather than using ARPA funds.

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**Councilwoman Germain** asked Mr. Dimaio if it is feasible to use ARPA money. Mr. Dimaio stated that there is a broad statement that the ARPA funds could be used for diversity and inequities, but he does not necessarily know if it can be used directly for a board that oversees something. He would like to do a little more research and not commit to that currently. It is not going to a specific program, it is going to a board that they may facilitate something.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to increase line item #1107-42151 Revenues – Municipal Court – Housing Violation Building Code Fines by an increase of \$10,000 totaling \$17,500.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked Councilwoman Renzulli where those funds would be allocated. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that she would like to allocate those funds to the Diversity Commission. Councilwoman Vargas stated that the Diversity Commission currently has \$10,000 in this current FY 2022 budget of which she does not believe a penny of it has yet to be used.

**Attorney Angell** stated that there is no motion pending to reallocate the funds. You can have discussion about reallocation of the funds if there is a motion to reallocate the funds.

Roll call was taken on above motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to reallocate \$10,000 from group #42151 to the Diversity Commission line item.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Vargas** asked Mr. Igoe if any of the \$10,000 allocated to the Diversity Commission in this FY have been spent yet to date. Mr. Igoe stated that, to date, there have been no expenditures. Councilwoman Vargas asked if there are any stipulations of how the funds that are currently in that line item could be used or it is up to the board. Mr. Igoe stated that he believes it would be at the discretion of that board. Councilwoman Vargas stated that she would wholeheartedly love to give the Diversity Commission thousands and thousands of dollars, but the fact that they have not used any of the \$10,000 right now, and there has only been one meeting so far within this current FY, she would love to see the Diversity Commission call a meeting strategizing how those \$10,000 will first be used. She would much rather have a strategic plan in place by the Commission Members as to what they would like to do the next FY and have that plan in place and then next year, the next Council could then determine or even have the board appear before the Council and say this is how they spent it and this is what they would like more or this is how they would like less. There is a lot of work to do in our City with training and equity and inclusion and even accessibility through our entire City, but at the same time, knowing that we are making cuts and it is a tough time, she in her right mind, would not be able to support continued increasing that line item even with that Revenue that Councilwoman Renzulli found in the budget.

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**Councilman Reilly** stated that he believes that when the Council appropriated the \$10,000 last year, it was for racial sensitivity training for the employees. He asked Director Parrillo, who is Chair of the Commission, if that has taken place. Director Parrillo stated, no. Councilman Reilly stated that he completely agreed with the one-time appropriation, but he does not think we have gotten a lot of employees to retrain. As Councilwoman Vargas stated, that money has not been spent and he does not see it doubling that and adding \$20,000 onto another \$10,000 when all the other boards and commissions get roughly a \$1,000.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** stated that it is her understanding that the training that is needed is more expensive than the money that is allocated. If they can't get the training for \$10,000 this year, they are not going to get it next year either. She does not think this is a regular board and commission. Lots of cities and towns have a whole department dedicated to diversity. She asked Director Parrillo for any insight on this topic. Director Parrillo stated that the board has only met one time and have not really dove into what the group's priorities are. He really can't guarantee that that money will be spent this year.

**Councilman Donegan** stated that he wholeheartedly supports the Diversity Commission, but as we just heard from Director Parrillo, the Chair of the Diversity Commission, they have only met once, they have no plan to use the \$10,000 at this time which was allocated last year. The Diversity Commission has been in existence for one year, has met once and it already has more funding than any other board or commission in the City. He is not sure if doubling that tonight, when there is no plan to spend it, is not a decision he is in a position he is comfortable to make this evening.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Renzulli, Germain and Council President Paplauskas -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly and Council Vice-President Ferri -6.

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On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to place \$10,000 into the ARPA funds. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to decrease Hospitalization 2% across the board for a savings of \$221,307.54. Motion passed failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

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On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to decrease Overtime 10% across the board in each department for a savings of \$703,280.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Reilly** stated that he will be introducing an Ordinance to create an Overtime Task Force to review the departments on a monthly basis, provide insight to the Administration and to bring light to the issue. This is a huge financial burden in the City and we need to make sure, for the taxpayers, that it is done in the light of day.

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Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 1-8. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilman Reilly -1. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -8.

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On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to amend line item #1800-59000 School System – Additional City Appropriations reducing it by \$1 million, amended to -0-.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** stated that he has serious concerns about how this could affect programming, could ultimately affect the youth in our City through that. For that reason, he strongly urged the Council Members to vote against this amendment.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** stated that this amendment is purely fiscal and nothing to do with Schools. The School Department factually has over \$3 million in a Rainy Day Fund that they do not actually need to have by law and they could dip into that if they wanted to. She is not saying the Schools do not deserve more. She also agrees that we do not have more. \$1 million to the Schools this year is another \$1 million every year forever. It is not like another department where if they do not use all the funds, they give the money back or it gets spread around to fill other holes.

**Councilwoman Vargas** stated that this is a tough thing to do. By giving the Schools the \$1 million, we would be adding that to their Maintenance of Effort. What she would not want to see is having program cuts. She is looking out for what is in the best interest of the residents of the City.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 2-6. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilman Reilly and Council Vice-President Ferri -2. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwoman Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -7.

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On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to increase line item #1111-42161 Revenue – Plumbing Permits by \$24,500. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -8. Councilman Reilly was not present for roll call vote.

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On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to allocate \$24,500 to the ARPA funds from group #42161. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -8. Councilman Reilly was not present for roll call vote.

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On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to amend line item #1603-47120 Revenue – Senior Services Social Services to \$40,000.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** asked if the \$40,000 is closer to what it is running at to date. Mr. Igoe stated that he believes Director Craddock stated that that was a Grant. He is not sure if the Grant was actually reduced to come into that amount, so if it is increased, you would be taking a risk.

**Director Moretti** stated that he has a notation from Director Craddock that we lost a Grant and that is why that number is down.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

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Councilwoman Renzulli motioned to remove Budlong Pool from the Capital Budget and put it back to the Bond because it was not properly placed before the Planning Commission. Councilman Donegan seconded the motion for discussion.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Renzulli** stated that apparently, this did not go through the proper channels to get here and she believes we are going to use Grant funding to whatever happens to reopening the pool. This should be removed if we are not following the Charter.

**Councilman Donegan** asked if the Administration has a position on what was said this evening regarding the Charter and how it pertains to this proposal. Director Moretti stated that we asked our Solicitor and they did concur that that was improperly submitted and submitted after the Planning Commission approved the Capital Budget, but the recommendations for the Capital Budget. Councilman Donegan asked if this is removed, will the City still be moving to reopening the pool if there are other funding sources. Director Moretti stated that the Administration contacted Senator Reeds's Office to request Grants. We do not know if we are going to be getting the Grant. We are working very very closely with our Grant Writer and Senator Reed's Office and Chief of Staff of Senator Whitehouse and Representative Langevin. They are pushing very hard to get us \$2.8 million, but that is going to have to go through their process.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** questioned if outside of the Budget, we still have the ability to accomplish this project however we find the money. Director Moretti stated that outside of the Budget, it would be going to the voters, he believes, with the proposed Referenda for the pool if we can get it on the Ballot and if it is approved, it could be done that way this year. That is another alternative or another vehicle.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion failed on a vote of 4-5. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Reilly and Council President Paplauskas -4. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri -5.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that, just to be clear, we violated the City Charter and opens us up to a lawsuit.

On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to reconsider the above motion and motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by councilman Donegan, it was voted to allocate \$24,500 from group #42161 to ARPA funds. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Council Vice-President Ferri, it was voted to amend the Capital Budget to remove the turf field installation at the Cranston Stadium Baseball Field in the amount of \$425,000, Cranston West Baseball Field in the amount of \$500,000 and Fay Baseball Field in the amount of \$650,000.

Under Discussion:

**Councilman Donegan** indicated to the Capital Budget for FY 2023 and asked how much that would impact the debt service for FY 2024. Mr. Igoe stated that depending on how much we go and borrow, even though there is a Capital Budget, we do not actually borrow then there is no increase, but based on what we borrowed, you could figure 4% for half a year.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** asked if there was any calculations done on the installation of turf and the return on that investment based on how much it costs to maintain those fields to adequate levels now. Director Moretti stated that there may be. He does not have such analysis. Director Tessaglia may have that, but he has not been provided with it.

**Councilwoman Marino** stated that we just do not have the money. This totals \$1,575,000. To spend that kind of money to be incurred for paying for this, it is much more efficient to run on just good old grass.

**Council Vice-President Ferri** asked what the normal amount of time if we were to go out to bond. Mr. Igoe stated, twenty years. Council Vice-President Ferri stated that his research shows that turf would last 12-15 years, so we are going to spend a million and a half dollars on turf that in fifteen years we are going to have to replace and still have five years left to pay on the bond. He would not be in favor of taking this out of the Capital Budget.

Roll call was taken on above motion and motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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On motion by Councilwoman Vargas, seconded by Councilman Reilly it was voted to suspend the Rules since it is past midnight and the Council Rules have a midnight curfew. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -9.

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**Councilman Donegan** asked what is in the City’s current Rainy Day Fund balance. Mr. Igoe stated that the current Rainy Day Fund for the General Fund is \$14,478,645, that is of the Audit of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Donegan stated that his understanding is that the Rainy Day Fund is to be 5% of the City’s overall budget, so going into tonight, that would have been approximately \$16.5 million. We changed it a little bit so with the budget before us if passed, violates the Charter.

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**Council President Paplauskas** stated that we also had the Auditor General decision that he believes came into play with the Pilot money that will take a year to catch up. That may give us a boost to get back up to that 5% or near it.

**Director Moretti** stated that the Pilot one-time prior period adjustment was \$4.8 million had a negative effect on the surplus.

**Councilman Donegan** asked what the surplus amount is and what the proposed budget with amendments. Mr. Igoe stated that the surplus is \$14,478,645 and \$329,639,165 is the proposed budget with amendments. Councilman Donegan stated that we are about \$2 million short of getting it to 5% requirement by Charter and as of right now, we cannot pass this budget. Council President Paplauskas disagreed with this statement and stated that there is a provision for just coming out of a pandemic. He does not think we have to have that 5%.

Solicitor and City Council Legal Counsel reviewed the Charter.

**Attorney Angell** stated that Section 6.20 talks about the Rainy Day Fund. He read for the members of the Council and public this section. He stated that he thinks if you were to consider the prospect that the pandemic has caused an emergency in the health, safety and welfare of the City, the Mayor or his designee, he suppose, could make a recommendation that the City Council vote in 2/3 to go below the 5%. It is possible. That is how he looks at it. With that being said, you have to come up with a plan to get to the 5%.

**Council President Paplauskas** stated that hearing that opinion, he thinks we have to pass the budget tonight and put on the Finance Committee agenda that we work on a plan to get back to the 5%, unless we find \$2 million in cuts right now.

**Attorney Angell** stated that during recess, in speaking with Finance, it seems that the shortfall in the Rainy Day Fund is a result of a change in the generally accepted accounting principles as they relate to governmental entities and in particular where Cranston was concerned, it was how GAAP characterized the receipt of Pilot money. As a result of that, you had to recharacterize that money on your balance sheet of \$4.9 million and as a result of that, it changed the number in the Rainy Day Fund. If you look at this particular section, you are not making an appropriation allotment or expenditure that does this. This gap was created because of GAAP and the State Auditor General ordered the balance sheet adjustment for the City of Cranston. In talking with Mr. Igoe, it would seem that there is going to be a surplus for the FY end. This group needs to think seriously about making sure that that is allocated toward the Rainy Day Fund when those monies become available and you have to put a plan in place to build that Fund back up now that you know, but have not made an appropriation allotment or expenditure that caused this. You are not doing something that is illegal, you are not passing a budget that ignores the Rainy Day Fund or makes no set aside for it. Former Director Strom made the Council aware of this in FY 2021 Audit. He recalls Director Strom talking about it and there was not a clarity about it that point or how it was going to hit the Rainy Day Fund.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to amend group #3800 Revenue – Ice Rink – Program Income and increase of \$50,000.

Under Discussion:

**Mr. Igoe** stated that we sold the Bubble Rink so there will be a decrease in Revenue next year due to that fact and this is not part of the General Fund.

Motion and second were withdrawn.

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***RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OPERATING BUDGET AND THE ATTACHED SALARY SCHEDULE FOR THE GENERAL FUND, THE SEWER FUND, ICE RINK FUND, THE INSURANCE FUND AND THE CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 AND ADOPTING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE FOUR SUCCEEDING YEARS***

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to adopt the above Resolution.

Under Discussion:

**Council Vice-President Ferri** stated that with a little pressure and public outcry and complaints from some Council Members, the Administration was successful in getting department Directors to cut approximately \$700,000 from their budgets. He salutes the effort and the fact that they gave this to Councilwoman Renzulli to amend tonight, however, let's not forget why we are really hear. The citizens and businesses of Cranston deserve a responsible budget. A responsible budget is not a partisan issue. The budget that the Administration delivered to the Council four weeks ago was not a responsible budget. He stated the following facts: it includes a 6.2% increase in spending, which is \$19.5 million; it also has a 2.85% tax increase and it uses \$19.4 million from the ARPA COVID funds. Besides all that, it creates a \$12 million structural deficit. Structural deficit is simply when there is a fundamental imbalance of receipts and expenses. This structural deficit will result in taxes being raised for subsequent years to come. When the budget was introduced, a prominent Republican in Cranston came before this Council and Administration and told us that the budget creates a structural deficit. The candidate the Mayor attempted to hire as the new Finance Director basically said the same thing and our Council Auditor verified that information to him, yet the Administration for almost a month sat back to have the Council solve the problem. He asked that the citizens of Cranston listen. The Mayor presented a budget to the Council that was irresponsible. Experts told him this and nothing got done for a month. They have known for many months that there was going to be a problem and they expected the Council to solve it in just three short weeks. We owe the citizens of Cranston and businesses of Cranston an explanation. Why did we waste the public's time and money in having surveys and having public testimony on how to spend the COVID funds when the Administration knew all along that they were going to use the money to plug the budget? His research shows that no surrounding City or Town in Rhode Island is using COVID funds and raising taxes for a structural deficit. He cannot support this budget or any amended budget and he asked that we need an Audit to see how we got into this position. We have a structural deficit that the Mayor gave us a budget that was not responsible. He will vote "no" on anything tonight.

**Councilman Donegan** stated that he cares deeply about our City and he knows everyone else does too, that is why we are here. It is a difficult year for everyone and for every municipality given the COVID Pandemic and certainly inflation and global markets are not making anything easier and that is reflected in the budget. The Mayor's budget that was proposed is concerning for many of the reasons Council Vice-President Ferri pointed out. As presented, it had \$12 million structural deficit including a 2.85% tax increase and with that structural deficit it could result in some maximum tax increase in the years going forward for there or four years and the additional reliance on COVID relief funds to plug subsequent budget holes. Based on surveys and based on public opinion, that is not how our community wants to see those funds spent. This budget uses \$19 million of our COVID funds, that is just under half of it. Over 50% of the City wanted it to go towards infrastructure, parks and open space, public recreation and this does not do this. We have a once3 in a lifetime opportunity in invest in creating a healthier more resilient Cranston and he does not think this expenditure does that. Last year, the Council took the Mayor at his word that the use of the \$7.8 million of COVID funds would be a one-time thing due to tax revenue loss and here we are again this year

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after many of us warned and were concerned about the structural deficit and we are now coming here again now looking to double down on that amount and use almost three times that. He can't support a budget that is going to put the City in difficult financial stability in years going forward that is going to rely on ARPA funds and waste a once in a lifetime opportunity to seriously improve our City and that is going to create structural deficits and even put greater financial strains on the members of our public.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** stated that if this amended budget does not pass this evening, she asked if it would revert back to the Mayor's original budget. Council President Paplauskas stated that he believes that is correct.

**Councilman Donegan** stated that if that is the case, the Council, through our work, collaboration between all nine members have identified over a million dollars of places where Revenues can be generated and expenditures can be cut and just because the Mayor has \$300 million, does not mean he needs to use it all. We have identified places that we can increase Revenues and he himself and through the Administration has identified places where expenditures can be cut and put into the surplus or raised and put into the surplus.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** stated that we came here tonight and together found over \$1 million. She is sorry if she thinks it is for optics if we do not pass a better budget then we were given so that we can say this budget was horrible. It is still not great now, but it is better so why would we put all that aside just so we can continue the same narrative we are continuing. If the Mayor fails, the City fail. Guess what, we are all failures too. There is already an Audit that we paid for so that is on us. That \$6 million was in there it wasn't really brought to our attention but we did not say anything about it. She asked that everyone please do not come at her personally on this floor for going to the Administration until someone would listen to her and for asking questions and then getting the information and presenting it because the Mayor does not have the liberty to present those changes because she did not do that to any of the members of the Council. Let's pass a budget that is better than the one that was presented to us.

**Councilwoman Marino** stated that she shares the sentiments of Councilman Donegan and Council Vice-President Ferri. As to Councilwoman Renzulli's point about making it better, this budget is an "F" and whether you give it a grade of a 20 out of 100 or a 40 out of a 100 because we saved a million dollars, it is still a failing grade and the fact is the Administration, this is their task to work on this and present this to us. They had a Finance Director. She was in City Hall when the Finance Director was meeting with each Department Head before the Mayor presented his budget on April 1<sup>st</sup>. our Finance Director was still here with all that institutional knowledge and yet still the best this Administration came up with was this failing budget that we received. It is a slap in the face to the residents, it is a slap in the face to everyone in this City for what we were presented with. To have a structural deficit using ARPA funds in no way shape or form in a way that we were led to believe that they would be utilized. It is a day late and a dollar short, but to the tune of millions of dollars when this Administration in the last final weeks now all of a sudden we are going to find cuts and spending. Is it because as the Council Members spoke up and said it should be done? That is their job and it was not done.

**Councilman Reilly** stated that we all agree that this has been a difficult time and none of us have been happy with what was presented. There has been a lot of politics here tonight on votes so when we are sitting here at the eleventh hour chastising the Mayor about how bad his budget was, yes, our work here tonight we found a million dollars, but we get F's tonight because that is nothing. We have been given an opportunity to fix, but we didn't. People voting no left and right and we are giving the Schools an extra \$1 million. He did criticize the Mayor's budget. He does not have this job to make friends and him speaking his mind gets him iced out, so be it, this is his job and he is here to do it.

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**Councilwoman Vargas** agreed with some of the comments made by some of her colleagues about the budget. She questioned where we would have been if that \$19 million from the ARPA had not been sort of a rescue to our City. Knowing that we have a 2.85% proposed tax increase to all our Cranston residents during these tough times, she will not be supporting this budget this evening.

**Councilwoman Germain** stated that it is a difficult choice because we are all here on behalf of our taxpayers. We are all impacted by the inflation. She does not think it is fair in this budget to propose raises while we raise taxes on our taxpayers and they do not have a raise in their job. Based on the sentiments she shares with her colleagues, she cannot, in good faith, vote for this because we are all impacted by the course of life.

**Councilman Campopiano** stated that he took this position and accepted this position to help out his constituents and he feels like he let them down. Everyone did a lot of work to make cuts and bring it down, but fell short and he still does not know how to vote.

**Council President Paplauskas** asked Mr. Dimaio how much this Council cut off the Operating Budget tonight? Mr. Dimaio stated approximately \$1,372,000. Council President Paplauskas asked how much was cut off the Capital Budget. Mr. Dimaio stated close to \$2 million. Council President Paplauskas stated that by voting “no” on this budget, you are voting “no” on the cuts that have been made in the last seven hours. Nobody is happy with this budget. He does not like any budgets, any budget that has come before us, but he hates this one the most. If we do not pass the Operating Budget, in his opinion, this Council has failed. By voting “no” on this budget, raises go through. There were a lot of things done tonight that will go through. Tonight’s work was for nothing if this does not pass.

Roll call was taken on motion to adopt the above Resolution and motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being record as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -3. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Reilly and Council Vice-President Ferri -6.

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***ORDINANCE MAKING AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE CITY OF CRANSTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023***

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to adopt the above Ordinance. Motion failed on a vote of 3-6. The following being record as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -3. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Reilly and Council Vice-President Ferri -6.

**Councilwoman Renzulli** left the meeting at 1:05 a.m.

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***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS AND LEVY OF TAXES***

On motion by Councilman Campopiano, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to adopt the above Resolution. Motion failed on a vote of 2-6. The following being record as voting “aye”: Councilman Campopiano and Council President Paplauskas -2. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Reilly and Council Vice-President Ferri -6.

**-MAY 4, 2022-**

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***ORDINANCE FIXING THE DATE WHEN TAXES ARE ASSESSED, AS OF  
DECEMBER 31, 2021 WILL BE DUE AND PAYABLE AND THE DATE WHEN  
UNPAID TAXES WILL CARRY A PENALTY***

On motion by Councilman Campopiano, seconded by Councilman Reilly, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 8-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwomen Marino, Vargas, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Campopiano, Reilly, Council Vice-President Ferri and Council President Paplauskas -8.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 A.M.

/s/ Rosalba Zanni  
Acting City Clerk