

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, October 4, 2021 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island and via Zoom Webinar.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 P.M. by the Acting Chair.

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

Also Present: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas
 Councilwoman Aniece Germain
 Paul McAuley, Deputy Chief of Staff
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 David Dimaio, City Council Budget Analyst
 Rosalba Zanni, Acting City Clerk
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

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

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None.

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

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

9-21-06 *Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 3.24 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue and Finance – Real Property for Tax Freeze for Elderly". Sponsored by Council President Paplauskas.*

On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Council President Paplauskas stated that he would like to amend the amounts slightly to match HUD income limits for Providence County. He asked that line #32 be amended from \$32,000 to \$30,300 and line #34 be amended to \$34,600.

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to amend this Ordinance as stated by Council President Paplauskas.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donegan asked Director Strom for any input or comments. Director Strom stated that he, the Tax Assessor and Council President Paplauskas discussed this and the Tax Assessor provided those HUD limits in place right now and he stated that he feels confident that this is something that the Administration would approve based on this Ordinance.

Councilwomen Renzulli, Vargas, Germain, Marino, Councilmen Donegan and Campopiano asked to be added as co-sponsors.

Council Vice-President Ferri asked if we need approval from the General Assembly to raise the thresh hold. Council President Paplauskas stated that there is State enabling legislation. This won't take effect until next budget so it gives us plenty of time to get it to the General Assembly and also fix this Ordinance.

Council President Paplauskas stated that one this amended version passes, he would like to continue this to next month because there is another amendment he would like to make that also has the amounts in it.

Roll call was taken on motion to amend this Ordinance and motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to continue this amended Ordinance to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Real Estate Tax Abatements***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Tangible Tax Abatements***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Board of Review Decisions assessed as of December 31, 2020.***

Informational only. No action needed.

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Approvals.***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council Vice-President Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Vargas, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Update on ARPA money coming in and utilization of it. (Councilwoman Vargas)***

Director Strom stated that the City has received an e-mail from the Treasury Department and they were satisfied with what we submitted that was due at the end of August. He also stated that, in his opinion, he thinks that some of the restrictions are going to start to ease a little bit.

Council President Paplauskas asked that this item be kept on the agenda for monthly updates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Acting City Clerk