



CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Monthly Meeting

Jessica M. Marino, President, City-Wide
Lammis J. Vargas, Vice President, Ward 1
Robert J. Ferri, City-Wide
Nicole Renzulli, City-Wide

Kristen E. Haroian, Ward 2
John P. Donegan, Ward 3
Richard D. Campopiano, Ward 4
Christopher G. Paplauskas, Ward 5
Daniel Wall, Ward 6

AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston City Council will be held on **Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM. in the Cranston City Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910** for the purpose of conducting the items of business appearing on the docket.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/91258047397?pwd=QXpldzBsbDIQM2tjajFuRTkwenBpZz09>

Passcode: 664675

Or One tap mobile :

+16469313860,,91258047397# US

+13017158592,,91258047397# US (Washington DC)

Or Telephone:

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

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

Webinar ID: 912 5804 7397

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/91258047397?pwd=QXpldzBsbDIQM2tjajFuRTkwenBpZz09>

YouTube Live Stream

This meeting will be live streamed on YouTube. Click the link to view the meeting. You will only be able to observe the proceedings. You will not be able to participate.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtE9vwA1B1PQHuftrNPcZjg>.

Technology problems should be reported immediately to: CranstonCityCouncilMedia@gmail.com

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (votes may be taken)

Approval of the minutes of the April 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
(vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

Approval of the minutes of the April 29, 2024 Special Council Meeting
(vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

Approval of the minutes of the May 6, 2024 Special Council Meeting
(vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

V. PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS

CITATIONS of Recognition to the **Cranston Combined Percussion Ensemble** students and instructors as recipients of the *New England Scholastic Band Association: 2024 Percussion Scholastic A Champion* and *WGI Percussion Scholastic A World Championship Semi-finalist*; presented by Council President Marino (no vote)

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT (Votes may be taken)

Public hearings under this section are limited to DOCKETED subject matters only. Public comment may be permitted and will be subject to time limitations. Such hearings and comments do not include the introduction of new matters before the Council (see Section XVI herein).

Written public comment may be submitted via email to <https://www.cranstonri.gov/city-council-contact-form/> **no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the Council meeting** in order to be provided to the City Council before the meeting. All such written comments shall include your name and address. (Vote may be taken to accept written comment and to place it on record)

Members of the public may also participate in public comment by accessing the zoom link referenced on the first page and using the "raise your hand" feature. For those without access to video observation platforms, you may also call in to the meeting by dialing 1-888-788-0099 and pressing *9 to raise your hand during public comment.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION Recognizing May 19-25, 2024 as National Public Works Week 2024: Advancing Quality of Life For All; Sponsored by Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Paplauskas, and Councilman Campopiano (vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

VIII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Report from the Chair, Councilman Wall, on the *CLAIMS COMMITTEE* meeting held May 6, 2024:

May, 2024 Claims Paid Report (no vote) [\[click to view\]](#)

B. Report from the Chair, Councilman Ferri, on the *SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE* meeting held May 6, 2024:

CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSES – NEW

1. *The Spot Bar and Grill* located at 20 Rolfe Square

(Approved by Safety Services & License Committee May 6, 2024; Over the Cap; requires full Council approval) (vote may be taken)

2. *Kaffeology Restaurants Corp d/b/a Kaffeology* located at 50 Hillside Road

(Approved by Safety Services & License Committee May 6, 2024; Over the Cap; requires full Council approval) (vote may be taken)

C. Report from the Chair, Councilman Donegan, on the *FINANCE COMMITTEE* meeting held May 6, 2024:

RESOLUTION Authorizing Real Estate Tax Abatements as recommended by the Tax Assessor (vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

Consideration of Tax Interest **WAIVER DENIALS** for the month of April, 2024 as recommended by the City Treasurer (vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

03-24-02 ORDINANCE In Amendment of Title 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled “Administration and Personnel” (Minimum Wage); Sponsored by Councilmember Donegan; Co-Sponsored by Council Vice-President Vargas, Councilmen Ferri, Campopiano, Paplauskas and Wall, Councilwoman Haroian, and Council President Marino; Approved by the Finance Committee May 6, 2024 (vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#) [\[click to view fiscal note\]](#)

D. Report from the Chair, Council Vice-President Vargas, on the *PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE* meeting held May 16, 2024: (nothing to report)

E. Report from the Chair, Council Vice-President Vargas, on the *ORDINANCE COMMITTEE* meeting held May 16, 2024: (nothing to report)

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR UNDOCKETED ITEMS (no votes)

Public comment may be permitted under this section, subject to time limitations, for UNDOCKETED items only. Written public comment may be submitted via email to the Council before the meeting at <https://www.cranstonri.gov/city-council-contact-form/> **no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the Council meeting.** All such written comments shall include your name and address. Copies will be provided to the City Council before the meeting and the record shall be noted. (*Vote may be taken to accept written comment and to place it on record*)

Members of the public may also participate in public comment by accessing the zoom link referenced on the first page and using the "raise your hand" feature. For those without access to video observation platforms, you may also call in to the meeting by dialing 1-888-788-0099 and pressing *9 to raise your hand during public comment.

X. ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICIALS

APPOINTMENT of Susan Maria Pires to the **Juvenile Hearing Board**, to fill the unexpired term of Kristen E. Haroian, expiring December 1, 2026; as requested by Council President Marino (*vote may be taken*)

APPOINTMENT of Judy Abate to the **Tax Exemption Study Commission** created by Mayor Hopkins' Executive Order 23-02, for the period of June 1, 2024 through June 1, 2025; as requested by Council Minority Leader Renzulli (*vote may be taken*)

XI. REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

None

XII. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST from Sergeant Anthony Massimino to be placed on the pension roll effective end of day May 24, 2024 (*vote may be taken*) [[click to view](#)]

Legal Expense Analysis for the period of July 1, 2023 to May 23, 2024
(*no votes*) [[click to view](#)]

From Planning Director Pezzullo, status report on the Comprehensive Plan (*no votes*)

XIII. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS (no votes)

Acknowledgement of Memorial Day

XIV. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS (no votes)

From Councilman Ferri and Council Vice-President Vargas:

1890 Broad Street Status Update:

- Code Enforcement Report
Please provide any Updates and Fines from 1/1/2021 to the present
- Building Inspection Report
Please provide any Updates from 1/1/2021 to the present
- Current Building Permits
Please provide any Updates from 1/1/2021 to the present

From Councilman Donegan:

Enforcement of the Lead Safe Homes Ordinance

From Councilwoman Renzulli:

Scope and Authority of Council Investigations: Discussion on a formal request by the ACLU of Rhode Island concerning the recent resignation of former City Councilwoman Aniece Germain; and accepting the letter which makes this request into the record (VOTE MAY BE TAKEN). The ACLU has raised substantial concerns regarding the events leading to Ms. Germain's resignation, particularly the appropriateness and authority of a Council investigation into her private organizational affairs. Clarification of Investigatory Powers: According to Section 3.17 of the City Charter, the Council has the authority to investigate the "official conduct" of any city department, board, commission, office, agency, officer, or employee. We need to establish a clear understanding of what constitutes "official conduct" and ensure that investigatory actions are confined to this scope. The ACLU contends that considering an investigation in the case of former Councilwoman Germain overstepped the bounds of Council authority, as the issues with her non-profit's tax-exempt status were unrelated to her official duties as a council member. We should also discuss the premise that any one council member has the authority to "take action" in the form of an investigation, as well as address potential overreach and the misuse of investigatory powers. This discussion can/should include council members, legal, and the administration as it aims to uphold the integrity of the Council's investigatory powers, safeguard against potential overreach, and ensure transparency and fairness on this body and in this chamber.

XV. COUNCIL BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None

XVI. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

The following New Business items are listed for reference and for a vote to be referred to the appropriate Council sub-committee for a public hearing:

05-24-01 ORDINANCE Authorizing the City to Utilize Eastern Cranston Police Impact Fees and Western Cranston Impact Fees Towards Police Rent; Sponsored by Councilman Donegan; to be referred to Finance Committee June 3, 2024

(*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

05-24-02 ORDINANCE In Amendment of Title 2 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, Sections 2.08.260 and 2.08.261, Entitled “Board of Canvassers” and “Registrar” (Operations Related to the Board of Canvassers and Registrar); Sponsored by Council President Marino and Councilman Paplauskas; to be referred to Ordinance Committee June 13, 2024 (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

05-24-03 ORDINANCE In Amendment of Chapter 5.40 of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled ‘Hawkers and Peddlers – Generally’ Section 5.40.140; Sponsored by Council President Marino, Councilman Daniel Wall, and Councilman Robert Ferri; to be referred to Ordinance Committee June 13, 2024 (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

RESOLUTION Loan Order Authorizing the City of Cranston to issue not to Exceed \$40,000,000 General Obligations Bonds, Notes and Other Evidences of Indebtedness to Finance the Purchase and/or Acquisition of Land and Buildings, Construction, Renovation, Improvement, Alteration, Repair, Landscaping, Furnishing and/or Equipping of Schools and School Facilities Throughout the City, Subject to Approval of State Housing Aid at a Reimbursement Rate or State Share Ratio of Not Less Than 50% at the Time of Issuance; Sponsored by Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilman Donegan, and Council President Marino; to be referred to Special Finance Committee June 13, 2024 (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

PETITION of Narragansett Electric for relocation of pole on Highland St; to be referred to Public Works Committee June 13, 2024 (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

CLAIMS to be referred to the Claims Committee meeting of May 6, 2024 as follows:
(*vote may be taken*)

<i>TYPE OF CLAIM</i>	<i>CLAIMANT</i>	<i>DATE OF ALLEGED INCIDENT</i>
Property Damage	Rebecca Burns	March 11, 2024
Property Damage	Christopher Carter	April 13, 2024
Property Damage	Holly West	April 21, 2024
Property Damage	David Barsamian	February 13, 2024
Property Damage	Jeff George	April 30, 2024
Injury	Elizabeth Pearl	April 30, 2024
Property Damage	Joseph Gemma	April 17, 2024
Property Damage	Steven Harpool	May 7, 2024
Personal Injury	Rachel Paulhus	October 30, 2016

XVII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION NEEDED

RESIGNATION of Kristen Haroian from the Juvenile Hearing Board received May 15, 2024

RESIGNATION of Robert Santucci, Jr. from the Affordable Housing Commission received May 16, 2024

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT (*vote may be taken*)

Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-6(c) Notice of this meeting was posted on the Secretary of State's website, on the city's website, at Cranston City Hall and at the Cranston Library on May 23, 2024