

*(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 7, 2024 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

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

### **II. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Councilwoman Kristen E. Haroian  
Councilman Richard D. Campopiano  
Councilman Daniel Wall  
Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas  
Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Vice-Chair  
Councilman John P. Donegan, Chair  
Council President Jessica M. Marino

Absent: Councilman Robert J. Ferri

Also Present: Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli  
Christopher Rawson, Assistant City Solicitor  
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel  
David DiMaio, City Council Budget Analyst  
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees  
Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **A. Minutes of the September 9, 2024 regular meeting**

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER**

#### ***A. Approval of the sealed minutes of the July 1, 2024 Executive Session***

Council President Marino prepared the minutes and delivered them in sealed envelopes to the Council members present in the executive session. **(Cont. from 8/15/2024).**

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024 Executive Session meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**12-23-01**      ***ORDINANCE In Amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance”, Chapter 3.110 – Ten (10) Year Tax Stabilization for Property Located at Oaklawn Avenue (Plat 17-3, Lot 670) (Oaklawn Avenue Tax Stabilization). Sponsored by Council President Marino. (Cont. from 1/8/2024, 2/5/2024, 3/4/2024, 4/1/2024, 5/6/2024 & 7/1/2024).***

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**12-23-02**      ***ORDINANCE In Amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance”, Chapter 3.111 – Ten (10) Year Tax Stabilization for Property Located at 320 Scituate Avenue (Scituate Avenue Tax Stabilization). Sponsored by Council President Marino. (Cont. from 1/8/2024, 2/5/2024, 3/4/2024, 5/6/2024 & 7/1/2024)***

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to next month’s meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**6-24-01**      ***ORDINANCE Allocating \$2,500,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the Purpose of Supporting School Projects, Upgrading City of Cranston and CLCF Properties and Providing Finance Assistance to Small Businesses. Sponsored by Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins. (Cont. from 7/1/2024)***

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to continue this Ordinance for one month.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Renzulli** asked if this is still being held up due to the litigation or negotiation based on the City suing the Council for the ARPA money. Chair stated that his rationale for continuing this for another month is the suit that the Mayor filed against the City Council is still pending. He thinks it would be premature, in his opinion, to move forward with allocating these funds without resolution to the ongoing suit. Councilwoman Renzulli stated that she does not agree to continue this. She thinks that that is separate and apart, but questioned how long we are going to hold this up because the schools need the money for the work they have to do. Chair stated that the matter is still pending.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Ordinance to next month’s meeting and motion passed On a vote of 5-2. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Haroian, Councilmen Wall, Donegan, Council Vice-President Vargas and Council President Marino -5. The following being recorded as voting “nay”: Councilmen Paplauskas and Campopiano -2.

**V.      CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**

*None.*

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Gary DaSilva**, Assistant Business Agent for the Teamsters Union, appeared to speak and stated that they have been bargaining for approximately four months and have a TA on all except economic issues. Economic issues are still on the table. All the members ask is to be paid fairly. The Teamsters work hard to keep the City of Cranston running. He asked that the City take into consideration everything that he has mentioned when they sit down again for negotiations on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Michael Favicchio**, Director of Personnel, appeared to speak and stated that this is really a matter for Executive Session so no details can be put forth. There are ongoing negotiations and it is in mediation at this point and there is nothing else that can be said on the record.

## **VII. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

### **A. Ordinances**

*None.*

### **B. Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION** *Calling for an Independent Investigation relative to Complaint PC 2024-4766, David Broccoli, et al v. Kenneth Hopkins, The City of Cranston, Anthony Moretti, Paul McCauley, David Rodio and Christopher Millea, et al.; Sponsored by Council President Jessica Marino.*

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

#### Under Discussion:

**Council President Marino** stated that at the full City Council meeting, Attorney Stys spoke and stated that he was hired to represent the City of Cranston in this lawsuit and he sees Executive Session on the agenda and for that reason she asked that a motion be made to take the agenda out of order and proceed with Executive Session.

Motion and second to recommend approval if this Resolution were withdrawn.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to take the agenda out of order. Motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Pending Litigation. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Council Vice-President Vargas, it was voted to go come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to seal the minutes of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

**Chair** stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

On motion by Council Vice-President Vargas, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to continue this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

**Solicitor** reiterated that the Committee had an Executive Session and the Legal Department was not present in that Executive Session. Also, Attorney Ryan Stys, who is defending the City in the action, who was also hoping he might be able to enter the Executive Session, was not in Executive Session either. He reminded everyone that every word spoken in there is confidential. Also, he would let the civil lawsuit proceed and Attorney Stys would agree with him. He cautioned any public statements in any way, may compromise defense of the City.

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Resolution and motion passed unanimously.

**C. *Real Estate Tax Abatements***

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by the City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. *Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements***

*None.*

**E. *Tangible Tax Abatements***

*None.*

**F. *Tax Assessment Board of Review assessed December 31, 2022.***  
*(Informational Only – No Vote will be taken)*

*None.*

**G. *Tax Interest Waiver Approvals***

On motion by Councilman Wall, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals. Motion passed unanimously.

**H. *Tax Interest Waiver Denials***

*None.*

**I. *Tax Interest Waiver Denials***

*None.*

## **VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Councilman Donegan:**

- *Discussion of the contract for Teamsters Local Union No. 251 affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Municipal Employees Term beginning July 1, 2024 including the Administration's negotiations and contract details.*

**Chair** stated that this was also to be under Executive Session and he will accept fault for that. It was generally seeking an update, which he believes the Committee has. He asked Solicitor if he had anything to add. Solicitor stated that if the Committee places this under Executive Session, the Director of Personnel can attend and give status of the negotiations and he will be available for the next meeting if it is Executive Session.

**Chair** asked Clerk to add this item under Executive Session for the November meeting.

**Council President Marino** asked if there is a meeting occurring later this month with the Union so this could be placed on the regular Council meeting agenda rather than the November Finance meeting. Solicitor stated that the Union Representative stated that they will be meeting again October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Council President Marino** asked that this be placed on the October 28<sup>th</sup> Council agenda for Executive Session, which is before the next Finance meeting since the Union has another meeting scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Chair** asked Clerk to remove this item from the next Finance agenda.

## **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees