

*(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, August 7, 2023 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. by the Chair.

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

Present                    Councilman Robert J. Ferri  
                                 Councilman Richard D. Campopiano  
                                 Councilwoman Aniece Germain (left meeting at 7:40 p.m.)  
                                 Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas  
                                 Councilman John P. Donegan, Chair

Absent:                    Council Vice-President Lammis J. Vargas, Vice-Chair

Also Present:            Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli  
                                 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor  
                                 Tom Zidelis, Finance Director  
                                 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 July 3, 2023 Regular Meeting

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilwoman Germain, it was voted to approve the above minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

2-23-07 *Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue and Finance, Chapter 3.97.030 – Fifteen (15) Years Economic Development Tax Incentive Program for Property located at 661 Park Avenue and 271 Doric Avenue (Tax Stabilization Agreement). Sponsored by Councilman Ferri. Co-sponsored by Councilwoman Renzulli. (Cont. from 3/6/2023, 4/3/2023, 5/11/2023, 6/5/2023 & 7/3/2023).*

**Marshall D'Ambrosio**, owner of 661 Park Ave. project, appeared to speak and stated that there is a meeting within the next two weeks between his attorney and the City's attorneys to come up with some agreement with the City.

**Solicitor** stated that he exchanged emails today with Attorney Mancini, he spoke to Attorney Angell and Solicitor Millea on Friday and also spoke to Chairman Ferri and the plan is to have a meeting with the attorneys hopefully well in advance of the September meeting and have something in place so that the Committee can move forward on the merits of the application. He made it clear that what the City's attorney will be meeting about is the issue involving enabling legislation.

On motion by Councilwoman Germain, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to continue this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

**Councilwoman Germain** voiced her frustration that this has been continued for six months and still nothing is concrete. The question she has is what are we doing and what is going on?

Roll call was taken on motion to continue this Ordinance to next month's meeting and motion passed unanimously.

#### V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

#### VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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

### **A. Ordinances**

**7-23-01**      *Ordinance Authorizing the City to utilize Eastern Cranston Police Department Impact Fees and Western Cranston Police Department Impact Fees towards Police Rent*; sponsored by Councilman Donegan.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Resolutions**

None.

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

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

### **D. Motor Estate Tax Abatements**

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

### **E. Tangible Tax Abatements**

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

### **F. Tax Interest Waiver Approvals**

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

### **G. Tax Interest Waiver Denials**

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilman Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Denials. Motion passed unanimously.

**Council President Marino:**

- *Update on the remaining amount of ARPA funds*

**Chair** stated that after speaking with Council President, the Committee will still move forward with this item.

**Director Zidelis** stated that after adoption of the Fy2024 budget and the Fy24 CIP Plan, the unexpended unencumbered ARPA balance would be \$5,937,305.14.

**Councilwoman Renzulli:**

- *Status of Comprehensive Plan & Status on Planning Department's staffing levels and current/future hiring.*

**Jason Pezzullo**, City Planner, appeared to speak and stated that next summer or fall, the first version will be presented for public hearing. They will have something about a year from now. After that, there will be Phase II where it could take two to three years.

**Chair** asked that the following be placed on next month's agenda, but Director Pezzullo does not need to attend and Administration can provide information: "status of hiring for Planning position to begin January 1, 2023".

**Councilman Donegan:**

- *Exploration of Liability Policy for the City*

**Director Zidelis** asked that this item be continue for one more month.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees