

(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 Thursday, August 15, 2024 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 P.M. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Councilman Robert J. Ferri
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

Also Present: Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
Anthony Moretti, Director of Administration
John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
Thomas Zidelis, Director of Finance
Stephen Angell, City Council Legal Counsel
David DiMaio, City Council Budget Analyst
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to allow the Committee to proceed beyond 11 p.m. in accordance with the Council Rules of an increment of half hour. Motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the June 3, 2024 regular meeting

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilwoman Haroian, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of the sealed minutes of the July 1, 2024 Executive Session

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to continue the approval of the minutes of the July 1, 2024 Executive Session meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Blake, 173 Grand Ave., appeared to speak in favor of “Resolution Requesting the Administration to seek funding for the enforcement of state and local lead safety laws”.

VII. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

A. Ordinances

None.

B. Resolutions

RESOLUTION *Requesting the Administration to seek funding for the enforcement of state and local lead safety laws.* Sponsored by Councilman Donegan.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Campopiano, it was voted to recommend approval of this Resolution.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donegan stated that this Resolution was done in collaboration with the Childhood Lead Action Program, who had helped with the research and advocacy of the Lead Safe Home Ordinance from last year. This Resolution is encouraging us to seek outside funding, whether it is through HUD or other means, to help implement and enforce the lead Ordinance and lead safety laws here in the City of Cranston.

Councilwoman Renzulli, Councilmen Campopiano, Ferri, Paplauskas, Councilwoman Haroian, Councilman Wall, Council Vice-President Vargas and Council President Marino asked to be added as co-sponsors.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of this Resolution and motion passed unanimously.

C. Real Estate 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.

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

H. Tax Interest Waiver Denials

None.

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Council President Marino:

- ***Open Discussion- Discussion on the status of the contract for Teamsters Local Union No. 251 affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Municipal Employees Term beginning July 1, 2024 and Laborers Local Union 1322.***

Michael Favicchio, Director of Personnel, appeared to speak and stated that they have met a few times since the last meeting, but the Teamster Labor Attorney has not responded and had to cancel today.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon open call by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, the Committee will convene in a closed session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) for collective bargaining.

On motion by Council President Marino, seconded by Councilman Wall, it was voted to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 11:05 p.m.

Executive or closed session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) for collective bargaining re:

- *Discussion of the contract for Teamsters Local Union No. 251 affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Municipal Employees Term beginning July 1, 2024 and Laborers Local Union 1322, including the Administration's negotiations and contract details.*

RETURN OPEN SESSION

**Upon return to open session, the Committee Chair will report out any motions made in Executive Session, and may call for a motion to seal the minutes of the Executive Session*

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 11:30 p.m.

Chair stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees