

(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, March 2, 2020, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilmember Paul J. McAuley
 Councilmember John P. Donegan
 Councilmember Edward J. Brady
 Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
 Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair
 Council President Michael J Farina

Absent: Councilmember Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair

Also Present: Daniel Parrillo, Director of Administration
 John Psilopoulos, Deputy Director of Administration
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
 Ron Ronzio, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember Brady, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

- ***Tourism Proposal by Providence & Warwick Convention Bureau (Councilmembers Donegan and Brady).***

Kristen Adamo, President and CEO of GO Providence, appeared to speak and make a presentation and provided a packet for the Committee of what this organization does.

Council President Farina stated that he has a hard time understanding why the City would have to pay a fee when members of the organization have to pay a fee. Ms. Adamo stated that she is proposing no charge for year one.

Council Vice-President Favicchio questioned how her organization would promote one city over the other. Ms. Adamo stated that that would be up to the consumer. it would also be done geographically where if a consumer is in the Cranston area, Cranston would pop up on the app. Council Vice-President Favicchio stated that he does not see why the City has to spend money when the business who joins pays the organization also.

Councilmember Brady stated that, in his opinion, it is going to create additional revenue that would far offset what we spend.

Council President Farina stated that he thinks this is a good opportunity, but he would like to familiarize himself with the marketing details.

Ms. Adamo stated that her organization would provide quarterly reports on activity on behalf of Cranston. She also stated that, as she stated earlier, the first year would be at no charge and second year would cost \$10,000 and then we could re-evaluate to see if it is worth the City's while.

Council President Farina asked how the Administration feels about this. Director Parrillo stated that this does sound like a good idea, but the Mayor would like to look into this further.

Councilmember Hopkins stated that we need to do something about revitalizing Rolfe St. because that is our Main St. and it has fallen by the wayside. We have the Park Theatre that is under-utilized.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ***Tax Assessment Board of Review Decisions as of December 31, 2018***
Councilmember Stycos's request from 1/6/2020 meeting - Report from Finance Director regarding abatement for 100 Sockanosset Crossroads and minutes of that Board's meeting to be provided to Committee. Cont. 2/3/2020.

No discussion. Removed from agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

- ***Budget for the Census (Councilmember Donegan)***

Councilmember Donegan stated that the participation in 2000 was 8% and declined in 2010. We need to reach approximately 19,506 people for the 2020 census. He stated that he thinks, as a City, we can send additional letter from the Mayor with the tax letter explaining why it is important to Cranston and also partnering with community-based organization for outreach.

Council President Farina asked if the Administration would be willing to do that. Director Parrillo stated that he will ask the Mayor to see if he would like to include it with the tax letter. He also stated that of the 19,000 people, some may not even get the letter if they are tenants or renters.

- ***Review of Online Records Project (Council Vice-President Favicchio)***

Council Vice-President Favicchio indicated that Finance Director Strom is not present and former City Clerk is also not here. He stated that he saw a payment for Granicus on tomorrow's Board of Contract and Purchase agenda. As to the online records, there is a glitch in the system, which has not been rectified for approximately six to eight weeks. He indicated that a person can only view the first page of the document and if they want to see other pages, they would have to pay for them in order to view them. This is totally useless. He can't understand why this is not fixed. He would like to get Granicus in and find out why. Director Parrillo stated that he will speak to Purchasing Agent Marchesi and possibly hold off the payment to Granicus until we meet with them.

- ***Real Estate Tax Abatements***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember McAuley, 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 President Farina, seconded by Councilmember McAuley, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Approvals***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember McAuley, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Denials***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Farina, seconded by Councilmember McAuley, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Denials as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

/s/ Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees