

(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 2, 2021 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island and via Zoom Webinar.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
 Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
 Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
 Councilman John P. Donegan
 Councilman Robert J. Ferri, Vice-Chair
 Council Vice-President Edward J. Brady, Chair
 Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Also Present: Anthony Moretti, Director of Administration
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 David Dimaio, City Council Budget Analyst
 Shelley Lariviere, Clerk
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

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

I. COMMITTEE BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

5-21-01 *Ordinance authorizing the City to utilize Western Recreational Impact Fees for the bike path beautification and restoration project. Sponsored by Councilwoman Marino, Councilmen Donegan and Ferri. Cont. from 6/7/2021.*

On motion by Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

B. NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

7-21-01 *Ordinance transferring appropriations and supplemental appropriations amending the budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021 (4th Quarter Transfers). Sponsored by Mayor Hopkins.*

On motion by Councilwoman Renzulli, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Director Strom stated that this is a yearly standard procedure. We balance out our Revenues and Expenditures in the fourth quarter. He also stated that the Auditors will be in the middle of October to do the CAFRA report and finalize the fiscal year.

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

7-21-02 *Ordinance transferring appropriations and amending the budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 (City Council to Executive Transfers–General Fund). Sponsored by Councilwoman Renzulli, Council President Paplauskas, Council Vice-President Brady and Councilman Reilly.*

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

7-21-03 *Ordinance ratifying the LIUNA (Laborers International Union of North America) Contract, Local Union 1322 (FY July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024). Sponsored by Mayor Hopkins.*

On motion by Councilman Ferri, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Councilman Donegan stated that he is in full support of these changes being made and he wants to make sure it is ok that we amend the Operating Budget.

Director Strom stated that, yes, he believes this was discussed at the end of the Budget process.

Director Moretti stated that the Administration has reserved some money to cover negotiations coming up. He concurs with Mr. Jordan that it is a fair deal for the public and a good deal for the Union members.

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

7-21-04 *Ordinance ratifying School Committee’s collective bargaining agreement with Rhode Island Laborers District Council 1322, Tradespeople Unit. Introduced Pursuant to Charter Sec. 11.02.1.*

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Joseph Balducci, Chief Financial Officer for Cranston Public Schools, appeared to speak regarding this Ordinance and proposed Ordinances 7-21-05, 7-21-06 and 7-21-07 and stated that these changes pertain to last year’s contract. There are sufficient funds to cover all four bargaining units.

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

7-21-05 *Ordinance ratifying School Committee’s collective bargaining agreement with National Association of Government Employees, Local RI-153, Custodian Unit. Introduced Pursuant to Charter Sec. 11.02.1.*

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

7-21-06 *Ordinance ratifying School Committee’s collective bargaining agreement with Rhode Island Laborers District Council 1322, Bus Drivers Unit. Introduced Pursuant to Charter Sec. 11.02.1.*

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

7-21-07 *Ordinance ratifying School Committee’s collective bargaining agreement with Rhode Island Council 94 AFSCME,AFL-CIO, Cranston Public School Employees, Local 2044.. Introduced Pursuant to Charter Sec. 11.02.1.*

On motion by Councilman Donegan, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Real Estate Tax Abatements***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

- ***Tangible Tax Abatements***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Council President Paplauskas, 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 Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Renzulli, 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 Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilman Donegan, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver Denials as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

- ***Discussion regarding COVID monies (6/28/21 City Council)***

No discussion held.

.The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees