

*(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, December 6, 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 7:00 P.M. by the Chair.

Present                    Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino  
                                 Councilman John P. Donegan  
                                 Councilman Matthew R. Reilly  
                                 Councilman Richard D. Campopiano  
                                 Council Vice-President Robert J. Ferri, Chair  
                                 Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Absent:                    Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli, Vice-Chair

Also Present:            Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas  
                                 Councilwoman Aniece Germain  
                                 Robert Strom, Director of Finance  
                                 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor  
                                 Heather Finger, Stenographer

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

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

Council President Paplauskas stated that Councilwoman Renzulli is absent, but believes she is watching from home. He also stated that in the Clerk's absence, he will be taking the roll call votes this evening.

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

None.

### **II. PUBLIC HEARINGS\* and/ or NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

#### **A. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

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

- ***Real Estate 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.

- ***Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

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

- ***Tax Assessment Board of Review assessed December 31, 2020.***

No action needed.

- ***Tax Interest Waiver Approvals***

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilwoman Marino, 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 Councilwoman Marino, seconded by Councilman Reilly, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Interest Waiver denials as recommended by City Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

***Informational Only:***

- ***Purchasing Dept. to provide an RFP to various local professional polling consultants for the purpose of sampling the constituents of Cranston regarding the use of ARPA Funds. The selection process and data will be across the City and will be evaluated by the Administration and City Council which meets guidelines provided by the U.S. Treasury Dept. Potential cost for this selection should range between \$ 10K - \$ 20K that can be paid out of the ARPA Funds received. Upon the selection process, I will be requesting approval from the City Council to pay for the services rendered.***

**Director Strom** stated that there has been discussion in the past about how we would want to approach the constituents of the City to get their opinions and ideas of how we should use our ARPA funds and one of the methods we were considering was doing an RFP to various local professional polling consultants. The cost of doing something like that would be in the range of doing something like that would be in the range of \$10,000 to \$20,000 and it can be paid by ARPA funds. He stated that we would like to do the RFP and once we get quotes, he would like to come back to the City Council and discuss what the cost is and how we are going to go about implementing this.

**Director Strom** also indicated that we have not used any money to date, but based on the budget, we have committed approximately \$7.8 million for Revenue loss and it was also approved for the Ice Rink.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rosalba Zanni  
Acting City Clerk