



# CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL

## Regular Monthly Meeting

Jessica M. Marino, President, City-Wide  
Lammis J. Vargas, Vice President, Ward 1  
Robert J. Ferri, City-Wide  
Nicole Renzulli, City-Wide

Aniece Germain, Ward 2  
John P. Donegan, Ward 3  
Richard D. Campopiano, Ward 4  
Christopher G. Paplauskas, Ward 5  
Daniel Wall, Ward 6

## AMENDED\* AGENDA

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston City Council will be held on **Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM. in the Cranston City Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910** for the purpose of conducting the items of business appearing on the docket.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/95140828470?pwd=QlpJQnBJNnRwcTIxTGthWXNkQy9JUT09>

Passcode: 287633

Or One tap mobile :

+13017158592,,95140828470# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,95140828470# US

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

Webinar ID: 951 4082 8470

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/95140828470>

*YouTube Live Stream*

This meeting will be live streamed on YouTube. Click the link to view the meeting. You will only be able to observe the proceedings. You will not be able to participate.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtE9vwA1B1PQHuftrNPcZjg>.

**Technology problems should be reported immediately to: [CranstonCityCouncilMedia@gmail.com](mailto:CranstonCityCouncilMedia@gmail.com)**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (votes may be taken)**

Approval of the minutes of the November 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

[\[click to view\]](#)

**V. PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS**

**CITATIONS** recognizing the Hope Highlands Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams for winning the city championship (no vote)

**VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT (Votes may be taken)**

Public hearings are limited to DOCKETED subject matters only. Public comment may be permitted and will be subject to time limitations. Such hearings and comments do not include the introduction of new matters before the Council (see Section XVI herein).

Written public comment may be submitted via email to the Council before the meeting at <https://www.cranstonri.gov/city-council-contact-form/> **no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the Council meeting.** All such written comments shall include your name and address. Copies will be provided to the City Council before the meeting and the record shall be noted. (Vote may be taken to accept written comment and to place it on record)

Members of the public may also participate in public comment by accessing the zoom link referenced on the first page and using the "raise your hand" feature. For those without access to video observation platforms, you may also call in to the meeting by dialing 1-888-788-0099 and pressing \*9 to raise your hand during public comment.

**VII. RESOLUTIONS**

*None*

**VIII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**A. Report from the Chair, Councilwoman Germain, on the *CLAIMS COMMITTEE*:**

December 4, 2023 claims paid (no vote) [\[click to view\]](#)

**B. Report from the Chair, Councilman Ferri, on the SAFETY SERVICES AND LICENSES COMMITTEE meeting held December 4, 2023**

**NEW CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE for Caffe Knightsville, LLC** located at 1669 Cranston St. (*Over the Cap; requires full Council approval*) (*Vote may be taken*)

**11-23-02 ORDINANCE** in Amendment of Title 5 – Business Licenses and Regulation, Chapter 16, of the City of Cranston Code of Ordinances, 2005, Entitled ‘Amusement Machines and Pool Tables’; Sponsored by Councilman Ferri.

(*Vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

**C. Report from the Chair, Councilman Donegan, on the FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting held December 4, 2023**

Consideration of Tax Interest Waiver **APPROVALS** for the month of November, 2023 as requested by the City Treasurer (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

**RESOLUTION** Authorizing Real Estate Tax Abatements as recommended by the Tax Assessor (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

**RESOLUTION** Authorizing Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements as recommended by the Tax Assessor (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

**RESOLUTION** Authorizing Tangible Tax Abatements as requested by the Tax Assessor (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

**RESOLUTION** Transferring \$307,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds Allocated for the Purpose of Improving City of Cranston School Playgrounds; As amended by the Committee 12/4/2023; Sponsored by Council Vice-President Vargas and Councilwoman Renzulli; Co-sponsored by Councilmen Campopiano, Wall, Paplauskas, Ferri and Donegan, Councilwoman Germain; and Council President Marino (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

**RESOLUTION** Supporting a legislative act of the Rhode Island General Assembly that enables the City of Cranston to seek approval of its voters to issue bonds and notes for the construction, purchase, and/or acquisition of land and buildings, renovation, landscaping, rehabilitation, repair, improvements, furnishing, and equipping of and/or additions to Cranston Public School buildings; Sponsored by Council President Marino, Councilwoman Renzulli, and Councilman Donegan; Co-sponsored by Councilwoman Germain, Councilmen Wall and Ferri, and Council Vice-President Vargas (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view Resolution\]](#) [\[Legislation\]](#)

**D. Report from the Chair, Council Vice-President Vargas, on the PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE meeting held December 7, 2023**

**RESOLUTION** Supporting “Complete Streets”; Sponsored by Councilman Donegan and Councilman Ferri; Co-sponsored by Councilwoman Germain, Council Vice-President Vargas, and Council President Marino (*Vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

**E. Report from the Chair, Council Vice-President Vargas, on the *ORDINANCE COMMITTEE* meeting held December 7, 2023**

**9-23-01 ORDINANCE** in Amendment of Title 17, Chapter 24 of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Performance Standards Generally" adding Section 17.24.50 Retail Sales of Cannabis; *As amended by the Committee 12/7/2023*; Sponsored by Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins (*vote may be taken*)

[\[click to view\]](#) [\[click to view Planning Commission Recommendation\]](#)

**10-23-01 ORDINANCE** in Amendment of Title 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled ‘Zoning’; Sponsored by Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins. (*vote may be taken to continue to December 19, 2023 Special Council Meeting*)

[\[click to view\]](#) [\[click to view Plan Commission Recommendation\]](#)

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR UNDOCKETED ITEMS** (*no votes*)

Public comment may be permitted, subject to time limitations, for UNDOCKETED items only. Written public comment may be submitted via email to the Council before the meeting at <https://www.cranstonri.gov/city-council-contact-form/> **no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the Council meeting.** All such written comments shall include your name and address. Copies will be provided to the City Council before the meeting and the record shall be noted. (*Vote may be taken to accept written comment and to place it on record*)

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**X. ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICIALS**

**XI. REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS**

*None*

**XII. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS**

Legal Expense Analysis for the period of July 1, 2023 – **December 11, 2023\***  
(*no vote*) [\[click to view\]](#) \*

From Planning Director Pezzullo, status report on the Comprehensive Plan (*no vote*)

From Chief James Warren, Cranston Fire Department, requesting his name be placed on the pension roll, effective December 29, 2023 (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

Consideration of Request from Deputy Chief Robert Ryan for one year continuation of service with the Cranston Fire Department for the period of December 13, 2023 to December 12, 2024 (vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

**XIII. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS** (no votes)

Reminder to the Mayor to make nominations for appointments to the Board Of Canvassers in advance of the next council meeting

Wishes for a wonderful and safe holiday season and new year

**XIV. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS** (no votes)

*From Councilman Paplauskas:*

Thank you to all of the volunteers and community partners that helped with this year's Knightsville Christmas Tree Lighting at Itri Park

**XV. COUNCIL BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER** (votes may be taken)

*None*

**XVI. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION** by City Council Legal Counsel, Stephen Angell, regarding the Open Meetings Act (no vote)

*The following New Business items are listed for reference and for a vote to be referred to the appropriate Council sub-committee for a public hearing:*

**12-23-01 ORDINANCE** In Amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled "Revenue and Finance", Chapter 3.110 – Ten (10) Year Tax Stabilization for Property Located at Oaklawn Avenue (Plat 17-3, Lot 670) (Oaklawn Avenue Tax Stabilization); Sponsored by Council President Marino; to be referred to the Finance Committee meeting of January 8, 2024 (vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

**12-23-02 ORDINANCE** In Amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled "Revenue and Finance", Chapter 3.111 – Ten (10) Year Tax Stabilization for Property Located at 320 Scituate Avenue (Scituate Avenue Tax Stabilization); Sponsored by Council President Marino; to be referred to the Finance Committee meeting of January 8, 2024 (vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

**CLAIMS** to be referred to the Claims Committee meeting of January 8, 2024 as follows: (vote may be taken)

<b><i>TYPE OF CLAIM</i></b>	<b><i>CLAIMANT</i></b>	<b><i>DATE OF ALLEGED INCIDENT</i></b>
Personal Injury	Alfred Conti Jr.	10/21/2023
Property Damage	Steven Conti	10/28/2023

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** *(vote may be taken to enter executive session)*

*Upon a motion, second, and open call by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, the City Council will convene in a closed session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) pertaining to prospective and actual litigation matters as listed below:*

*Casale vs. City of Cranston (vote may be taken\*)*

*401 Nightlife LLC dba Pre-Game Lounge vs. City of Cranston (vote may be taken\*)*

**XVIII. RETURN OPEN SESSION** *(vote may be taken)*

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

**XIX. ITEMS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

**RESIGNATION** of Jeffrey Barone from the Cranston Board of Canvassers effective January 1, 2024 *(no vote)*

**XX. ADJOURNMENT** *(vote may be taken)*

*Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-6(c) Notice of this meeting was posted on the Secretary of State's website, on the city's website, at Cranston City Hall and at the Cranston Library on December 14, 2023*

*\*Amended agenda posted December 14, 2023 to correct date of legal expense report and correct the link to the supporting document*