

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, July 12, 2007 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Terence Livingston, Chair
Council Vice-President Paula McFarland, Vice-Chair
Councilman Anthony J. Lupino
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Councilman Jeffrey P. Barone
Council President Aram G. Garabedian

Also Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
Councilman John E. Lanni, Jr.
Frank Migliorelli, Deputy Director of Administration
Charles Garganese, Jr., Assistant City Solicitor
Corsino Delgado, Director of Finance
Frank Smith, City Assessor
Donald Gray, City Treasurer
Steve Woerner, City Council Internal Auditor
Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
Heather Finger, Stenographer

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, 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:

OLD BUSINESS:

New (Bubble) Ice Rink Report from Administration on agreement for revenue distribution

Anthony Liberatore, Director of Parks and Recreation, appeared to speak and stated that he received two bids to install the bubble rink, one for \$423,000 and one for \$456,000. He suggested to the Purchasing Agent to reject both bids. He met with the Mayor last week and suggested he be the general contractor on erecting the bubble rink. The rink will be up by the middle of August. The first scheduled event is the first week of September.

Mr. Delgado stated that this is a 37 months contract, which takes us to next year. \$48,000 per month fee and 20% net of income goes to the management company. From July through May, the company is showing a loss of \$10,000.

Mr. Woerner stated that two issues that need to be resolved with the Veterans Ice Rink are 1) did they have business insurance interruption or not; 2) who is on the payroll. He does not think they made money, but these issues need to be resolved.

Chair asked that Mr. Woerner meet with the Administration to get these answers and report back at the next meeting.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to continue this item to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Ice Rink: Finance report from Management Company and Finance Director and Council Auditor.

Mr. Woerner asked for a continuance, since there was a problem scheduling a meeting with the Director of Finance and the management company.

On motion by Councilman Navarro, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to continue this item to next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Audit Committee Report on Auditor General's Report regarding the City Finances (Cont. 6/14/2007).

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to approve this report. Motion passed on a vote of 5-1. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Livingston, Lupino, Navarro, Council Vice-President McFarland and Council President Garabedian -5. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilman Barone -1.

3-07-6 Ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2007 (Inspections Department Permit Technician). Cont. 4/10/2007, 5/21/2007 and 6/14/2007.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that this amendment was done during the budget process and this Ordinance does not need any action.

4-07-5 Ordinance authorizing the City to utilize Western and Eastern Recreational Impact Fees for the repairs to the Cranston Veterans Memorial Ice Rink (Use of Impact Fee Revenue for the Repair of the Cranston Veterans Memorial Ice Rink). Tabled 5/21/2007 and 6/14/2007.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to the next month's meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Advice and Consent of Appointment of Philip C. Calabro, Jr. as Building Official.

No action. (Name withdrawn by the Mayor prior to the meeting).

NEW BUSINESS:

REAL ESTATE/TANGIBLE TAX ABATEMENTS

Mr. Smith appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTOR VEHICLE TAX ABATEMENTS

Mr. Smith appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

**REAL ESTATE TAX ABATEMENTS DUE TO BOARD OF REVIEW
ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2006**

Mr. Smith appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW DECISIONS (informational only)

No action needed.

Report from Treasurer on his actions under Ordinance 3.12.080 (informational only)

No action needed.

Report from Treasurer for denial of waivers

Mr. Gray appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of denied waivers. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from Treasurer for approval of waivers

Mr. Gray appeared to speak.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Councilman Lupino, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of approved waivers. Motion passed unanimously.

5-07-5 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 100 of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled “Revenue and Finance” (Tax Deferment Program) Amended in Committee June 14, 2007.

Chair stated that this legislation did not pass by the General Assembly.

Councilman Barone motioned to remove this Ordinance from the agenda. No one seconded this motion.

Councilman Lupino stated that he does not believe this legislation failed in the General Assembly. It was pushed to Committee. Any item that is referred to further study, it is a dead issue and would have to be re-introduced.

Council Vice-President McFarland stated that there is not enough time to implement this for the Assessor’s Office, since there is a deadline to apply.

Councilman Livingston stated that besides not having General Assembly approval, we do not know what this is going to cost, there are no guidelines and no criteria. It is a barebones Ordinance. In addition, we don’t have the money in our budget. He asked Mr. Woerner how much this program is going to cost, how many people would utilize this program and what the criteria for this program is. Mr. Woerner stated that looking at other towns who have this type of program, Lincoln and Cumberland, there are very few people who take advantage of this program. As to any criteria, there is none.

Council President Garabedian stated that he researched this and found there are approximately 5,500 people in the City who are over the age of 55 or disabled. This program provides a place where someone desperate can have their taxes deferred. This is not waiving taxes, it is a deferral. The City would get the money back when the home is sold.

Councilman Barone stated that there is no fiscal impact note attached to the Ordinance.

Mr. Woerner indicated that during the budget process, there was \$600,000 put aside for this program.

Council Vice-President McFarland motioned to refer this Ordinance to the April, 2008 Finance Committee meeting. No one seconded the motion.

Council President Garabedian motioned to continue this Ordinance to next month's meeting. Councilman Lupino seconded this motion. Motion failed on a tie vote of 3-3. The following being recorded as voting "aye": Councilmen Lupino, Navarro and Council President Garabedian -3. The following being recorded as voting "nay": Councilmen Livingston, Barone and Council Vice-President McFarland -3.

On motion by Council Vice-President McFarland, seconded by Councilman Navarro, it was voted to continue this Ordinance to the January, 2008 Finance Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

6-07-1 Ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2007 (Supplemental Appropriation-American Disability Act).

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Barone, seconded by Council Vice-President McFarland, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.

6-07-2 Ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2007 (Supplemental Appropriation-Senior Services Nutrition).

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Lupino, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Council Vice-President McFarland abstained.

7S-07-1 Ordinance transferring appropriations and amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2007 (4th Quarter Transfers)

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Council Vice-President McFarland abstained.

7S-07-2 Ordinance amending the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008 (School System Appropriation).

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Council President Garabedian, seconded by Councilman Barone, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance. Council Vice-President McFarland abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees