



CITY OF CRANSTON RHODE ISLAND

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Special Meeting of the City Council was held in the City of Cranston Council Chambers, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910, for the purpose of considering the following items listed on the agenda. Remote viewing was also available.

YouTube Livestream

The meeting was also live streamed on YouTube. Click the link below to view the meeting.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtE9vwA1B1PQHuftrNPcZjg>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 P.M. by the Council President Jessica Marino.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the City Clerk. Stated as present: Councilman Campopiano, Councilman Buonanno, Councilwoman Graziano, Councilwoman Haroian, Councilman Andujar, Councilman Ritz, Councilman Traficante, Council Vice-President Wall, and Council President Marino. Also present: Mayor Hopkins, Director of Administration Anthony Moretti, Budget Analyst David DiMaio, City Auditor Michael Igoe, Solicitor Christopher Millea, and City Clerk Tracy Nelson.

The Council President led the body in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MATTERS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

* These new matters are referred for public hearing to the appropriate sub-committee of the Council. They are listed here for informational purposes for future consideration as part of the budget.

- Pursuant to Charter section §6.03, the City Council welcomes Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins to deliver his budget message, and to introduce the City's operating budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2026.

The following items were read aloud by the Council President:

RESOLUTION Adopting the Operating Budget and Salary Schedule for the General Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Insurance Fund and the Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; and adopting the Capital Improvement Program for the four succeeding years.* To be referred to Special Finance Committee Meetings. *(No vote to be taken)*

ORDINANCE Making Annual Appropriation for the City of Cranston for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.* To be referred to Special Finance Committee Meetings *(No vote to be taken)*

RESOLUTION Levying and Ordering the Assessment and Collection of a Tax on Ratable Real Estate and Tangible Personal Property, pursuant to Charter §6.11.* To be referred to Special Finance Committee Meetings. *(No vote to be taken)*

ORDINANCE Fixing the Date When Taxes Are Assessed, Due and Payable, and the Date When Unpaid Taxes Will Carry a Penalty.* To be referred to Special Finance Committee Meetings *(No vote to be taken)*

Fixing the time and place for public hearings on the Operating and Capital Budgets.
(No vote to be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

- 2025-2026 Budget Hearing Notice – This notice is attached for informational purposes to provide the public with the dates, times, and access to the sub-committee meeting at which each department-level budget will be discussed and at which the public will be heard. Hearing dates are subject to change. Please consult the City website calendar (mentioned previously herein) for updated information.

Council President Marino turned the floor over to Mayor Hopkins.

Mayor Hopkins presented his budget address to the City Council. The City remains fiscally strong. Since Cranston no longer qualifies as a “distressed community”, the city lost out on significant funds, including a loss of over \$2.7 million of state-aid. Additionally, the state has reduced their contribution of PILOT funds (payment in lieu of taxes) over \$1.6 million in the past three years. The essence of the proposed budget is funding for the schools and children. The city side represents 45% of the overall budget; while 55% resides on the school side. The budget proposes an increase of \$2,279,000 in city contributions to the school department. This is in addition to the \$1 million of ARPA funds previously provided, and is independent from the state school aid slated to increase by approximately \$5.1 million from \$75.6 million to \$80.7 million. A tax increase of 2.57% is proposed on residential properties, with a proportionate increase on commercial properties. If adopted, the residential tax rate will be \$13.96 per thousand, up from \$13.61. The commercial and industrial rate will be increased from \$20.42 to \$20.94. This equates to a \$122 annual tax increase for the average home value of \$347,600 in Cranston. The budget increases the tax levy by 3%, the maximum allowed by Charter. The budget underscores the Mayor’s dedication to public safety. The aim of the budget is to put schools first, while continuing to provide essential services, and safeguard the city’s long-term financial health.

Council President Marino thanked the Mayor. She reminded everyone to pay attention to the city calendar for changes to the hearing schedule.

IV. ADJOURNMENT *(Vote may be taken)*

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Wall, SECONDED by Councilman Andujar to adjourn at 6:02 P.M. All Ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy A. Nelson, City Clerk

DRAFT