



CRANSTON CITY COUNCIL

Regular Monthly Meeting

Jessica M. Marino, President, City-Wide
Daniel R. Wall, Vice President, Ward 6
Richard D. Campopiano, City-Wide
Christopher E. Buonanno, City-Wide

Bridget R. Graziano, Ward 1
Kristen E. Haroian, Ward 2
Andy M. Andujar, Ward 3
Frank J. Ritz, Jr., Ward 4
Michael A. Traficante, Ward 5

MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston City Council was held on **Monday, July 28, 2025 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. Remote participation was also available.

YouTube Live Stream

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Council President Jessica M. Marino.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by the City Clerk. **Stated as present:** Councilman Campopiano, Councilman Buonanno, Councilwoman Graziano, Councilman Andujar, Councilman Ritz, Councilman Traficante, Council Vice-President Wall, and Council President Marino. **Absent:** Councilwoman Haroian. **Also present:** Internal Auditor David DiMaio, Legal Counsel Stephen Angell, Solicitor Christopher Millea, Deputy Solicitor Christopher Rawson, Asst. Solicitor John Verdecchia, Director of Administration Anthony Moretti, and City Clerk Tracy Nelson.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Boy Scout Troop #66, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the body.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(vote may be taken to consider as a block)*

APPROVAL of the minutes of the June 23, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
(vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Wall, SECONDED by Councilman Traficante, to approve the June 23, 2025 minutes. Ayes – 8 *(unanimous)*

APPROVAL of the minutes of the July 17, 2025 Special Council Meeting
(vote may be taken) [\[click to view\]](#)

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Wall, SECONDED by Councilman Traficante, to approve the July 17, 2025 minutes. Ayes – 8 *(unanimous)*

V. PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS

None

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Wall, SECONDED by Councilwoman Graziano to take the agenda out of order. Ayes – 8 (unanimous)

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

*Report from the Chair, Councilman Wall, on the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** meeting held July 7, 2025 and the **SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE** meeting held July 24, 2025:*

07-25-01 ORDINANCE Ratifying School Committee’s Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Cranston Teachers’ Alliance Local 1704, AFT (Teachers’ Unit); Introduced Pursuant to Charter Sec. 11.02.1; considered by the Finance Committee at a special meeting held July 24, 2025 (*vote may be taken*)
[\[Ordinance\]](#) [\[2022-2025 CBA\]](#) [\[Tentative Agreement\]](#) [\[Fiscal Note\]](#)

MOTION made by Councilman Traficante, SECONDED by Councilman Buonanno to approve Ordinance 07-25-01 ratifying the School Committee’s contract with the Cranston Teachers’ Alliance, Teachers’ Unit.

Councilman Buonanno read a letter from School Committee Chairman, Domenic Fusco, into the record (attached as Exhibit A). He, Councilman Traficante, and Council President Marino thanked everyone that participated in the negotiations.

VOTE ON MOTION: Ayes – 8 (unanimous)

07-25-02 ORDINANCE Ratifying School Committee’s Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Cranston Teachers’ Alliance Local 1704, AFT Paraprofessionals Unit (September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2028); Introduced Pursuant to Charter Sec. 11.02.1; considered by the Finance Committee at a special meeting held July 24, 2025 (*vote may be taken*)
[\[Ordinance\]](#) [\[2022-2025 CBA\]](#) [\[Tentative Agreement\]](#) [\[Fiscal Note\]](#)

MOTION made by Councilwoman Graziano, SECONDED by Councilman Traficante to approve Ordinance 07-25-02 ratifying the School Committee’s contract with the Cranston Teachers’ Alliance, Paraprofessionals Unit.
Ayes – 8 (unanimous)

RESOLUTION Authorizing Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements as requested by the Tax Assessor and recommended for approval by the Finance Committee July 7, 2025 (*vote may be taken*) [\[click to view\]](#)

MOTION made by Councilman Traficante, SECONDED by Councilman Campopiano to approve the Resolution. All Ayes

Council Vice-President Wall **WITHDREW** two docketed items due to the absence of the Finance Committee Vice Chair, Councilwoman Haroian: the **AMENDMENT to the Letter of Engagement** (first item of New Business) and the **Executive Session**.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT – DOCKETED ITEMS

Elizabeth Larkin, President of the Cranston Teachers’ Alliance and teacher at Park View, thanked the Council for their overwhelming support for the three contracts. She specifically thanked Council President Marino and Finance Chairman Wall for holding a Special Finance Committee meeting to expedite. She explained that teachers not only need to negotiate but sometimes must defend their very existence. Out of 36 districts, Cranston was one of the bottom because of years of reliance on state aid. The city needs to come up with a plan to support education going forward. There were five years of zero increases. Last year, pay increases did not cover the increased cost of health insurance. While the contracts are fair, the city could lose staff to districts offering more.

Anthony Melillo, Vice Chair of the School Committee, thanked the Council for their unanimous support. He thanked Ms. Larkin, the Superintendent, the Asst. Superintendent, and fellow School Committee members Keith Catone and Anna Medeiros. He asked Council to support the bus drivers’ contract.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

None

IX. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES (Continued from earlier in meeting)

*Report from the Chair, Councilman Wall, on the **CLAIMS COMMITTEE** meeting of July 7, 2025: Report of Claims Paid July, 2025 (no vote) [\[click to view\]](#)*

Chairman Wall stated the claims paid report has been provided.

*Report from the Chair, Councilwoman Haroian, on the **SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE** meeting held July 7, 2025: (nothing to report) (no votes)*

Council President Marino announced Chairwoman Haroian is absent tonight due to a previously scheduled family commitment. Vice Chairman Wall had nothing to report.

*Report from the Chair, Councilwoman Graziano, on the **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**: (nothing to report) (no vote)*

Councilwoman Graziano had nothing to report from the meeting held July 17, 2025.

*Report from the Chair, Councilman Andujar, on the **ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**: (nothing to report – July 17, 2025 meeting was cancelled) (no votes)*

Chairman Andujar had nothing to report as the meeting was cancelled.

X. ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICIALS

None

XI. REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

None

XII. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Legal Expense Analysis for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (no vote) [\[click to view\]](#)

There were no questions or comments

XIII. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS (no votes)

None

XIV. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS (no votes)

None

XV. COUNCIL BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None

XVI. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

AMENDMENT to the Cranston City Council’s Legal Counsel’s Letter of Engagement dated February 7, 2025 for the Council term beginning January 2025 and ending January 2027 (vote may be taken) * **Item was withdrawn by Council Vice-President Wall earlier in meeting** *

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:

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Wall, SECONDED by Councilwoman Graziano to take the following New Business items as a block: the five ordinances, the two petitions from National Grid, and the list of claims. Ayes – 8 (unanimous)

07-25-03 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; to be referred to Finance Committee August 4, 2025 *(vote may be taken)* [\[Ordinance\]](#) [\[2021-2024 contract\]](#) [\[Public Notice\]](#) [\[2024-2027 Tentative\]](#) [\[Fiscal Note\]](#)

07-25-04 ORDINANCE In Amendment of Title 10, Chapter 32, Section 225 of the City of Cranston Code of Ordinances, 2005, Entitled ‘No Parking of Commercial Vehicles’; Sponsored by Councilwoman Graziano; to be referred to Ordinance Committee August 14, 2025 *(vote may be taken)* [\[click to view\]](#)

07-25-05 ORDINANCE In Amendment of Title 10, Chapter 32, Section 040 of the City of Cranston Code of Ordinances, 2005, Entitled ‘No Parking on Certain Streets’; Sponsored by Councilwoman Graziano; to be referred to Ordinance Committee August 14, 2025 *(vote may be taken)* [\[click to view\]](#)

07-25-06 ORDINANCE In Amendment of Chapter 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, Entitled ‘Zoning’ (Change of Zone – 1746 Cranston Street); Property Owner: Aceto Family Trust; Petitioners: Scott Aceto and Richard Baccari II; to be referred to Ordinance Committee September 11, 2025 *(vote may be taken)* [\[Ordinance\]](#) [\[Application\]](#) [\[Plan\]](#) [\[Radius Map\]](#)

07-25-07 ORDINANCE Ratifying a Parking Lot Lease Between the City of Cranston and VFW Post 2396 D/B/A Tabor Franchi Post; Sponsored by Mayor Hopkins; to be referred to Finance Committee August 4, 2025 *(vote may be taken)* [\[click to view\]](#)

PETITION of Narragansett Electric for Installation of 3 new 2-way manholes with approx.. 1,690 ft of conduit on Wellington Ave.; to be referred to the Public Works Committee August 14, 2025 *(vote may be taken)* [\[click to view\]](#)

PETITION of Narragansett Electric for Installation of new P9015-50 and P9009-75 for feeder 7F1; and Intallation of new P9015 and P9010-75 for feeder 2213 on Wellington Ave; to be referred to the Public Works Committee August 14, 2025 *(vote may be taken)* [\[click to view\]](#)

CLAIMS to be referred to the Claims Committee meeting of August 4, 2025 as follows: *(vote may be taken)*

<u>CLAIMANT</u>	<u>TYPE OF CLAIM</u>	<u>DATE OF INCIDENT</u>
Ava Freitas	Personal Injury	05/22/2025
Tiana Carroll &	Personal Injury	05/03/2025
Aliyah Gonzalez &	“ “ “	“ “
Mila Medeiros	“ “ “	“ “
Ariana Muskelly	Personal Injury	06/14/2025
Darlene DeTroia	Property Damage	06/13/2025
Freddy Rocha	Personal Injury	01/28/2025
Andrea Davis	Property Damage	07/09/2025
Trudy Cipriano	Property Damage	07/09/2025
Elizabeth Avis DiPalma Martinelli	Vehicle Damage	02/13/2025
Joseph & Tina DiBiase	Property Damage	07/03/2025
Jessenia Bierd	Vehicle Damage (storm)	07/03/2025

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Wall, SECONDED by Councilwoman Graziano to refer the stated block of New Business items to their respective committees. Ayes – 8 (unanimous)

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon 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)(1) “Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person

or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting”:

- **City Council, Legal Counsel**

** Item was withdrawn by Council Vice-President Wall earlier in meeting. Executive Session was not convened. **

XIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION NEEDED (no votes taken)

2024 Annual Report of the Cranston Historic Cemeteries Commission
[\[click to view\]](#)

Mr. Hill, Chairman of the Historic Cemeteries Commission, was present to answer questions. The Commission typically tries to find people that live near a historic cemetery to help maintain it.

Councilman Campopiano asked if the volunteer base was strong and how they reach out to the community. Mr. Hill replied volunteers come and go. The most effective method seems to be their Facebook page. They always post their meetings.

Councilman Traficante encouraged Mr. Hill to submit a list of volunteers for the City Council to recognize at the end of the year.

Notice from RI Energy relative to 2025 Vegetation Management Standards and Practices [\[click to view\]](#)

Councilwoman Graziano asked if the city generally responds. She provides comments on these reports in her other capacity. Council President Marino is not sure. She has not seen this type of report previously. She deferred to the Administration. Director Moretti was not aware of the Vegetation Management Plan. The City Clerk will email the report to Director Moretti in the morning.

XIX. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR UNDOCKETED ITEMS (no votes)

There was no public comment on undocketed items.

XX. ADJOURNMENT (vote may be taken)

MOTION made by Council Vice-President Wall, SECONDED by Councilman Traficante to adjourn at 7:36 P.M. All Ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy A. Nelson, City Clerk