

(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).

REGULAR MEETING – CITY COUNCIL

-MARCH 16, 2026-

Regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, March 16, 2026 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, Rhode Island.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by the Council President.

II. ROLL CALL:

Roll call showed the following members present: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall -9.

Also Present: Nicole Renzulli, Governmental Affairs & Communications Director; Christopher Millea, City Solicitor; Michael Marcello, City Council Legal Counsel; David DiMaio, City Council Budget Analyst; Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committee; Ron Ronzio, Stenotypist.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the body.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND CITATIONS

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (vote may be taken)

- ***Approval of the minutes of the February 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting***

On motion by Councilman Traficante, seconded by Council Vice-President Haroian, it was voted to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026 regular meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

- ***Approval of minutes of the March 2, 2026 Special Council Meeting***

On motion by Council Vice-President Haroian, seconded by Councilwoman Graziano, it was voted to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2026 special meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

- ***Approval of the minutes of the March 4, 2026 Special Council Meeting***

On motion by Council Vice-President Haroian, seconded by Councilwoman Graziano, it was voted to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2026 special meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT – DOCKETED ITEMS

None.

VII. RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF FORMER COUNCIL PRESIDENT CARLO SPIRITO, JR. *Sponsored by Councilwoman Graziano, Councilman Buonanno and Council President Wall*

Councilwoman Graziano read Resolution into the record. Councilman Buonanno spoke and he and Councilwoman Graziano presented Citation to family of Carlo Spirito, Jr.

On motion by Councilman Traficante, seconded by Council Vice-President Haroian, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPH’S DAY. *Sponsored by Councilmen Andujar, Buonanno and Councilwoman Vaziri.*

Councilwoman Vaziri read Resolution into the record. Councilman Buonanno and Council President Wall presented Citation to Lori Carlino of Santa Maria Di Prata Society.

Councilmen Ritz, Traficante, Campopiano, Councilwoman Graziano, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall asked to be added as co-sponsors.

On motion by Councilman Andujar, seconded by Council Vice-President Haroian, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK’S DAY IN THE CITY OF CRANSTON. *Sponsored by Council President Wall and Council Vice-President Haroian.*

Council President Wall read Resolution into the record. Councilwoman Graziano spoke.

Councilwomen Graziano, Vaziri, Councilmen Traficante, Campopiano, Andujar, Buonanno and Ritz asked to be added as co-sponsors.

On motion by Councilman Traficante, seconded by Councilman Andujar, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH IN CRANSTON. Sponsored by Councilwomen Vaziri, Graziano, Council Vice-President Haroian, Council President Wall and Mayor Hopkins.

Councilwoman Vaziri read Resolution into the record. Council Vice-President Haroian and Councilwoman Graziano spoke as well as Councilman Buonanno.

Councilman Traficante asked that people not forget that women have done many things throughout history, but let’s not forget that they also serve in the military and do a great job for the United States of America and they should be honored as well.

Councilmen Traficante, Campopiano, Ritz, Andujar and Buonanno asked to be added as co-sponsors.

On motion by Councilman Traficante, seconded by Councilman Andujar, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

VIII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Report from the Chair, Councilwoman Vaziri, on the CLAIMS COMMITTEE meeting of March 2, 2026 Claims Paid

No action needed.

B. Report from the Chair, Council Vice-President Haroian, on the SAFETY SERVICES & LICENSES COMMITTEE meeting held March 2, 2026

A. CLASS BV LIQUOR LICENSE-NEW

License Period: current date- 12/1/26

1. ***G & MK Corp d/b/a Ichiban Restaurant*** located at 146 Gansett Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sun 11am-10pm

OVER CAP AND REQUIRES FULL COUNCIL APPROVAL

On motion by Councilman Traficante, seconded by Councilman Andujar, it was voted to approve this license application. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

C. Report from the Chair, Councilman Andujar, on the FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting held March 2, 2026:

1. ***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REAL ESTATE TAX ABATEMENTS AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY ASSESSOR AND RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MARCH 2, 2026.***

On motion by Council Vice-President Haroian, seconded by Councilwoman Graziano, the above Resolution was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

2. CONSIDERATION OF TAX INTEREST WAIVER APPROVALS

On motion by Councilwoman Graziano, seconded by Council Vice-President Haroian, it was voted to approve the above list of tax interest waiver approvals. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

D. Report from the Chair, Councilwoman Graziano, on the *PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE* meeting held March 4, 2026 (no action, no votes)

No action needed.

E. Report from the Chair, Councilman Andujar, on the *ORDINANCE COMMITTEE* meeting held March 4, 2026:

2-26-01 *ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 10, CHAPTER 32, SECTION 030 OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, 2005, ENTITLED ‘MULTI-WAY STOP INTERSECTIONS-ENUMERATED’. Sponsored by Councilman Traficante.*

On motion by Council Vice-President Haroian, seconded by Councilman Andujar, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

2-26-02 *ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 10, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 100 OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, 2005, ENTITLED ‘RIGHT TURNS PROHIBITED’. Sponsored by Councilwoman Graziano.*

On motion by Council Vice-President Haroian, seconded by Councilman Buonanno, the above Ordinance was adopted on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Traficante, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall 9.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR UNDOCKETED ITEMS

Kimberly Bogosian, 45 Mount View Dr., appeared to speak and stated that she recently attended the Cranston Municipal Court for two days in a row. She saw people that were there trying to get their orders cleared out and they signed in with the Clerk and signed out with the Clerk. She thinks the Council should think about shutting down the Court if it can. That would make the residents more happy.

X. ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICIALS

- ***APPOINTMENT OF KRYSTLE COOK TO THE TAX EXEMPTION BOARD OF REVIEW FOR TERM MARCH 16, 2026 THROUGH LIFE TERM AS REQUESTED BY MAJORITY LEADER GRAZIANO***

No action needed.

Councilman Andujar presented Citation to Ms. Cooke.

Attorney Marcello questioned the “life term” and stated that he thinks there should be a term for the members. This can be passed and if an adjustment needs to be made, it can be made at a future date.

XI. REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

None

XII. EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

LEGAL EXPENSE ANALYSIS

Councilwoman Graziano stated that approximately two Council meetings ago, they discussed doing a review on some of these legal expenses because she had some questions about what was still happening on some and why they are still ongoing, how much money we are spending and how that is being monitored. She would like to revisit that. Council President Wall asked Solicitor if these types of questions can be answered in Public Session or would an Executive Session be needed. Solicitor stated that questions would need to be answered in Executive Session. Council President Wall asked the Clerk to place Executive Session on for Executive Communication for the next Council meeting.

XIII. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS

• CHARTER SCHOOL MORATORIUM BILL

Council President Wall stated that last week, himself, Councilwoman Vaziri and Director Renzulli all spoke and a number of the Council people sent letters and testimony regarding the Charter School Moratorium Bill that is going before the House. They were given the opportunity to make their point that we can no longer afford this as a municipality and many municipalities are seeing the same thing. Charter Schools are eating up our State Aid and our funding from the City. Over the last two years or so, the Charter School movement has really grown exponentially. When they lifted the moratorium, every year it makes it more and more difficult. It makes it difficult on the Charter Schools that are doing something new and innovative and it makes it difficult for the traditional public schools. It seems like the people at the State level are starting to get the idea that this is costing us too much.

XIV. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Buonanno

• Update on D.O.T. projects

Councilman Buonanno stated that at the last meeting, Director Moretti was present and stated that we would schedule a meeting with D.O.T. D.O.T. since then was preoccupied with the blizzard and he would like to hold this for next month.

Director Renzulli stated that she will be happy to arrange that meeting, but everyone needs to be mindful that not everyone can attend this meeting otherwise it will be in violation of Open Meetings.

XV. COUNCIL BUSINESS MATTERS CARRIED OVER

None

XVI. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

The following items of new business are listed for reference and for a vote to be referred to the appropriate Council sub-committee for a public hearing. The Council President may call for a motion to consider one or more of the new business items as a block:

3-26-01 Ordinance ratifying School Committee's Collective Bargaining Agreement with Rhode Island Laborers District Council 1322, Tradespeople/Mechanic Unit. Introduced Pursuant to Charter Sec. 11.02.1. To Be Referred to Finance Committee April 6, 2026.

Advice and Consent of Mayor Hopkin's appointment of Robert Strom as Finance Director. To Be Referred to Finance Committee 4/6/2026.

Request from Narragansett Electric and Verizon for joint pole location at Broad St. To be referred to Public Works Committee 4/1/2026.

CLAIMS to be referred to the Claims Committee meeting of April 6, 2026 as follows:

<u>CLAIMANT</u>	<u>TYPE OF CLAIM</u>	<u>DATE OF INCIDENT</u>
Angelo Conti	Personal Injury	April 15, 2023
Erica Nadler Romero	Personal Injury	December 3, 2023
Rosamaria Simpson	Property Damage	January 11, 2026
Vinod Doshi	Property Damage	January 25, 2026
Izene Gianfrocco	Property Damage	January 26, 2026
Margarita Reyes	Property Damage	February 2, 2026
Lorine Lemay	Property Damage	February 7, 2026
Rebecca Blake	Property Damage	February 19, 2026
Caroline Thurmond	Property Damage	February 20, 2026
Arnold Bennett	Property Damage	February 20, 2026
Maria Tortolani	Property Damage	February 21, 2026
Domenic Coro	Property Damage	February 21, 2026
Rianna Arpin	Property Damage	February 21, 2026
Philip Nemirow	Property Damage	February 21, 2026
Edith Jourdan-Grittner	Property Damage	February 21, 2026
Ralph Maiorano	Property Damage	February 23, 2026
Ronald & Robin Silvestri	Property Damage	February 25, 2026
Raymond Patriarca	Property Damage	February 26, 2026
Talia Petit	Property Damage	February 27, 2026
William Parks	Property Damage	February 27, 2026
Vannak Pouk	Property Damage	February 28, 2026
Daniel Cogean	Property Damage	February 28, 2026
Desiree O'Rourke	Property Damage	February 28, 2026
Paul Sanon	Property Damage	February 28, 2026
Zachary Arbit	Property Damage	February 28, 2026
Lauren Marchetti-Boyle	Property Damage	February, 2026
Vatekeh Newberry	Property Damage	March 1, 2026
Gregory Mahoney	Property Damage	March 1, 2026
Chris DeFruscio	Property Damage	March 2, 2026
Haylee Menta	Property Damage	March 2, 2026
Roberta Turchetta	Property Damage	March 3, 2026
Jonathan Ojuri	Property Damage	March 3, 2026
Sarah Denis	Property Damage	March 3, 2026
Michael Morrisette	Property Damage	March 3, 2026
Donald Enos	Property Damage	March 4, 2026
Jose Ibern	Property Damage	March 4, 2026
Simon Krasner	Property Damage	March 4, 2026
Karin Ash	Property Damage	March 4, 2026
Kelly Carroll	Property Damage	March 4, 2026
Judith Loens	Property Damage	March 4, 2026
Norma Jeschke	Property Damage	March 4, 2026
William Reilly	Property Damage	March 5, 2026
Alexander Bailey	Property Damage	March 6, 2026
Mark Thorstenson	Property Damage	March 6, 2026
Julie Furgasso	Property Damage	March 7, 2026
Kendra Cardente	Property Damage	March 7, 2026
Sarah Hopkins	Property Damage	March 7, 2026
Kareem Son-Sarlo	Property Damage	March 8, 2026
Demetrez Rivers	Property Damage	March 8, 2026
Stacey Ascioffa	Property Damage	March 8, 2026
Alexandra Catalano	Property Damage	March 8, 2026
Alexis Kuniyoshi	Property Damage	March 8, 2026
Dean Coutu	Property Damage	Unspecified Date

Council President Wall asked for a motion to refer all the above new business to their respective Committees if there are no objections. There were no objections.

On motion by Councilman Andujar, seconded by Councilman Buonannor, it was voted to refer all above New Business as a block to appropriate Committees. Motion passed on a vote of 9-0. The following being recorded as voting “aye”: Councilwoman Graziano, Councilmen Andujar, Ritz, Councilwoman Vaziri, Councilmen Trafficante, Campopiano, Buonanno, Council Vice-President Haroian and Council President Wall -9.

XVII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – NO ACTION REQUIRED

None

XX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

/s/ Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees