

(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).

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, April 16, 2015, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilman Steven A. Stycos, Chair
 Council Majority Leader Paul H. Archetto, Vice-Chair
 Councilman Michael J Farina
 Council Vice-President Richard D. Santamaria, Jr.
 Councilman Donald Botts, Jr.
 Councilman Mario Aceto

Absent: Council President John E. Lanni, Jr.

Also Present: Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
 Councilman Minority Leader Michael W. Favicchio
 Carlos Lopez, Chief of Staff
 Robert Coupe, Director of Administration/Acting Personnel Director
 Evan Kirshenbaum, Assistant City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 Anthony Moretti, City Council Internal Auditor
 Maria Mederios Wall, City Clerk
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Botts, 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:

11-14-01 Ordinance in amendment of Chapter 3.04 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Fiscal Provisions" (Ordinance Fiscal Notes). Sponsored by Councilman Stycos. (continued /12/2015) No Action- withdrawn by sponsor
[\[click to view\]](#)

Chair, sponsor, withdrew this Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements** [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements** [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Abatements. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tax Interest Waiver Approvals** [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Council Vice-President Santamaria, it was voted to recommend approval of the above list of Tax Interest Waiver Approvals. Motion passed unanimously.

3-15-04 Ordinance in amendment of Title 2, Ch. 24, Section 090 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Connection of Fire Alarms to Municipal Systems". Councilman Favicchio. [\[click to view\]](#)

On motion by Councilman Farina, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to recommend approval of this Ordinance.

Under Discussion:

Deputy Chief Stephen MacIntosh, State Fire Marshall, appeared to speak and stated that this changes the existing Ordinance. This would be for us to convert to a radio transmission system. The date of June 30, 2016 for the conversion to be done was not something that the Fire Department agreed to. They are looking at a number in the 10 year range.

Council Minority Leader Favicchio asked how many conversions per year would be feasible. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that they would have to get word out to the businesses because this is an expense that they would have to budget for.

Councilman Botts asked if five years to be feasible. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated, yes.

On motion by Councilman Botts, seconded by Councilman Aceto, it was voted to amend line #34 as follows: change date to "2020".

Under Discussion:

Chair asked why this is a better system. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that it eliminates wiring where in bad weather, wires come down and trees come down.

Chair asked how much it would cost for the businesses for the conversion. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated, approximately \$7,000.

Councilman Botts asked if the Schools and City buildings would have to purchase this as well. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated, yes, they would.

Chair asked how the businesses would be notified of this. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that notification can be done a few different ways. One would be to reach out to the current alarm companies that do business in the City. They can then propose the change to their clients. Another way is mass mailing. He also stated that the equipment would be battery backup.

Chair asked when this issue came up and who discussed it. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that the Fire Department has been looking into this for a few years.

Chair asked if the price for the Schools would be the same. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that he anticipates that this is an average price.

Chair stated that this is a huge decision that has to be made by the Fire Department, which is a big cost and the City Council never reviewed this cost. There is a limited amount of money and there are over thirty Schools and we are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars just for the Schools. He feels that this needs more discussion and estimates on costs. Deputy Chief MacIntosh stated that this does not affect all the businesses in the City. It affects only the ones that have these master box connections. We are talking about a little over 600.

On motion by Councilman Aceto, seconded by Councilman Farina, it was voted to refer this Ordinance to the Safety Services and Licenses Committee and also a fiscal note is needed. In the meantime, Deputy Chief MacIntosh will provide an informational packet on the equipment and what this proposal is. Roll call was taken on motion to refer this Ordinance to the Safety Services & Licenses Committee and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees