

(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 Monday, October 2, 2017, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Council Vice-President Michael W. Favicchio, Chair
 Councilman Kenneth J. Hopkins, Vice-Chair
 Councilman Trent M. Colford, Sr.
 Councilman Christopher G. Paplauskas
 Councilman Paul J. McAuley
 Council President Michael J Farina

Also Present: Councilman Steven A. Stycos
 Christopher Rawson, City Solicitor
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 Robert Strom, Director of Finance
 David Capuano, City Treasurer
 Maria Medeiros Wall, City Clerk
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees
 Heather Finger, Stenographer

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Councilman McAuley, seconded by Councilman Colford, 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:

PUBLIC HEARINGS/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion regarding allocations of funds to various departments for claims (Council President)**

Council President Farina stated that this issue has come up at the Claims Committee meeting. A suggestion was made that the claims, which City employees are at fault, be paid out of that Department's line item. He questioned that if this is done, will we be just taking funds from the Claims Budget in the fourth quarter or will we have those particular departments absorb those funds.

Mr. Strom stated that there are three accounts set up going back to 2014 Budget year. \$10,000 has been allocated for Fire, \$30,000 has been allocated for Police and \$10,000 has been allocated for Public Works. Last year and this year, so far, there has been nothing charged so far. Only charge in the Police line item is \$3,601. As to the question of when the department runs out of the funds, we would have to address on any account line item.

Council President Farina stated that going forward, the Chair of the Claims Committee will direct all claims that are accidents that are considered City employee at fault, be referred to that particular department to be paid by that department.

- **Presentation by the Finance Department regarding new changes in computer system in the Treasury Department for collections. (Council President)**

Mr. Strom stated that the City Treasurer looked into a program with invoice cloud for taxpayers to pay taxes online and this program has been implemented. He commended Mr. Capuano and his department for getting this accomplished.

Mr. Capuano stated that the first step was getting Window based in Tax Collections so we could apply payments out of Windows and through invoice cloud. He presented a handout to the Committee.

Council President Farina stated that this is a good step in getting us moving into the 21st century.

Mr. Capuano stated that a lot of research was done on this and other cities and towns were looked at for this program and indicated that there is no cost to the City in this upgrade.

9-17-02 **Ordinance in amendment of Title 3 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Revenue and Finance" (Council's Budget Analyst). Sponsored by Council President Farina. Referred to Finance Committee 10/2/2017.**

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

Under Discussion:

Councilman Paplauskas asked for Mr. Strom's opinion regarding this. Mr. Strom stated that he has always worked closely with the City Council Auditor and he would like to continue that. He asked if this person will be overseeing the Audit Committee because that is what has been done in the past. Council President Farina stated that this person will still go to the Audit Committee meetings.

Mr. Strom stated that he would like to set up a meeting of the Audit Committee and with the City Council approval, he would like to do that until we get a Council Auditor or Analyst.

- **Real Estate Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Colford, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Motor Vehicle Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Colford, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Tangible Tax Abatements**

No one appeared to speak in favor or to oppose.

On motion by Councilman Paplauskas, seconded by Councilman Colford, it was voted to recommend approval of this list of Tax Abatements as recommended by City Assessor. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

September Court.



What are you looking for?

Current Monthly Summary

Current Month Payment Summary

Payment Type	Number Of Transactions	Total Paid
Credit Card	4109	\$521,815.18
EFT (Check)	1601	\$239,543.26
Online Bank Direct	180	\$24,469.92
Total	5890	\$785,828.36

Monthly Invoice Summary

Invoice Count

~~3~~

Paperless Statistics

Invoice Type	Paperless
Motor Vehicle	349
Sewer Assessment Tax	320
Real Estate	178
Personal Property	3

Auto-Pay Statistics

Invoice Type
Sewer Assessment Tax
Motor Vehicle
Real Estate
Personal Property

Customer Registration Statistics

Customer Count	Registered Count	Registered %
118358	2233	1.89

Pay By Text Registration Statistics

Customer Count	Registered
904	633

CITY OF CRANSTON
 Ex. # 1 Sub: 10-2-17
Finance Comm.
 By: David Capuano
 Re: computer system tax coll.

The City of Cranston is excited to announce that we have implemented a new online payment and electronic billing service that will offer greater flexibility when paying your tax bills, including paperless billing. With the improved bill pay service, residents can receive and view bills electronically and make payments online with a credit/debit card or bank account. Other features include:

- View your bill and make a one-time payment without registering.
- Register for an account to enjoy 24/7 access to your payment history and bills.
- Pay anytime, anywhere, including on your cell phone, with a mobile optimized experience.
- Schedule a payment for the same day, a future date, or enroll in AutoPay - automatically pay the invoice amount from your default payment method on the due date.
- Faster and more convenient than paying through your bank - EFT/ACH payments are received and clear faster than checks issued by banks.
- Pay by phone 24/7: (844) 383-1488.
- Recurring Scheduled Payments - set up a schedule to pay a fixed amount or the invoice balance on a specific day of the month.

In addition to the convenient features, we chose Invoice Cloud as our new online bill pay service provider due to their commitment to providing the highest standards in Internet security. Invoice Cloud will safely store all of your financial information using Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliant systems. This includes truncating (abbreviating) account numbers so that even The City of Cranston does not see your complete account information.

This is a fee based service. There will be a service fee of 2.95% with a minimum service fee of \$1.95 for all credit card payment transactions and a service fee of \$.60 for all EFT/ACH payment transactions.

The City of Cranston is confident you will find the new online bill pay service easy-to-use. If you have questions, please contact us at (401) 780-3333.



Save time! Pay Online

**Don't have time to wait in line?
View and/or Pay your
Tax Bills Online**

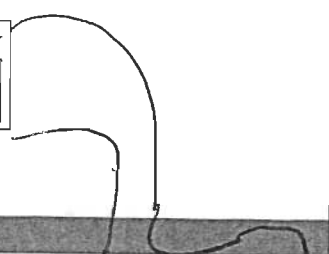
Go To: www.cranstonri.com



Announcing a new way to view and pay your tax bills online!

It's easy, safe, and secure!

- Go Paperless! Sign up to receive your bills only by email.
- No registration is required to view or pay your bill.
- Receive email reminders when a payment is due and a confirmation after making a payment.
- Sign up to receive text notifications or Pay by Text.
- Avoid late payments by enrolling in AutoPay.
- Not a computer person? Pay by Phone: (844) 383-1488.



- Invoice Cloud Company Mission
 - “Provide the highest adopting integrated electronic payment solutions to forwarding thinking clients.”
- Invoice Cloud are the leaders in EBPP (Electronic Bill Payment and Presentment) for utilities and local government in the US.
 - Clients include: Detroit Water; Atlanta Water; Anaheim Utilities; Portland Utilities; City of Vegas, City of Chicago; City of Boston, MA; City of Indianapolis, IN.
- Invoice Cloud clients frequently enjoy 3-5 times the e-adoption (# of users paying online) of competing online payment services.
 - When fewer citizens call the Cranston offices, walk in to the offices to pay, or mail physical checks — Cranston saves time and money. There is a significant cost to handling physical payments that goes away when the payment is simply part of an electronic file.
- **System highlights:**
 - PCI compliance - Invoice Cloud provides a secure, private and Payment Card Industry (PCI) Level 1 Compliant solution that is certified by Trustwave’s Trust Commerce Program. Level 1 PCI compliance is the highest in the industry.
 - Software as a Service (SaaS) Architecture – Invoice Cloud is the only true SaaS provider (single instance, multi-tenant) in this space, so we don’t need to upload patches and upgrades to each individual client site. No upgrades needed – when the newest features are released by Invoice Cloud, Cranston will have them instantly.
 - Extensive web and mobile payment options
 - Mobile optimized website for mobile payments (Responsive design provides ‘app-like’ experience without the hassle of downloading an app)
 - *50%+ of Invoice Cloud’s payments are through mobile devices (smartphones and tablets)*
 - Pay by text & Pay by phone.
 - Flexible payment options: One-time Pay, AutoPay, FlexPay.
 - Account Linking: pay multiple bills at once for multiple properties, plus manage all accounts through one registration.
 - Automated E-mail Communication Platform: Invoice Cloud provides 27 e-mail templates branded as Cranston, each sent to their payers based on certain events, such as: 3 e-mail reminders per bill, Payment confirmation receipt, AutoPay reminder.

- Invoice Cloud will significantly improve the Cranston e-adoption rates; Invoice Cloud strives for 40% + payment adoption with our clients within 2 years and 15-20% paperless registration in that same time frame.
 - *The average Invoice Cloud monthly biller achieves or exceeds these numbers.*