

(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).

SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

A special meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, March 11, 2021, via Zoom webinar.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 P.M. by the Chair.

Present Councilwoman Jessica M. Marino
 Councilwoman Nicole Renzulli
 Councilman Matthew R. Reilly
 Councilman John P. Donegan
 Councilman Robert J. Ferri, Vice-Chair
 Council Vice-President Edward J. Brady, Chair
 Council President Christopher G. Paplauskas

Also Present: Councilwoman Lammis J. Vargas
 Councilwoman Aniece Germain
 Anthony Moretti, Director of Administration
 Daniel Parrillo, Director of Personnel
 James Warren, Acting Fire Chief
 John Verdecchia, Assistant City Solicitor
 Leanne Zarrella, City Clerk
 Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- ***Advice and Consent re: Mayoral appointment of James Warren as Fire Chief, Cranston Fire Department***

On motion by Councilman Reilly, seconded by Councilman Ferri, it was voted to recommend approval of the Advice and Consent of the Mayor's appointment of James Warren as Fire Chief.

Under Discussion:

Dana Holmgren, 161 Ferncrest Ave., appeared to speak and thanked Deputy Chief Warren for his sacrifices over the course of his career and especially during this past year. She acknowledged that the professionalism of his team matters. She asked Deputy Chief the following:

- When your team responds to Senior Housing sites, is there someone on the team who speaks Spanish?

- Are you willing to diversify our team and are you willing to do outreach to the minority community? She stated that she hopes he can commit to do away with the applicants having to invest over \$2,000 in order to take the EMT Certification course without the promise of a job.
- Will you commit to equity training for all the department staff?
- Are you willing to take complaints of racism seriously?
- When your team gets called to do a presentation at an elementary school in Cranston, do you have folks on the team that the black kids can look up to and say “I can do that when I grow up”?

Director Parrillo stated that Deputy Chief Warren has the wellbeing of the department at heart. We will work with him to recruit and do the best we can to diversify the department.

Director Moretti stated that he and the Mayor never met Deputy Chief Warren prior to January 4, 2021 and the Administration heard wonderful things about him, his experience, dedication and his character. He also stated that the Mayor feels confident of Deputy Chief Warren’s tremendous experience, impeccable character and he is a man that cares about the City of Cranston.

Councilman Donegan thanked Deputy Chief Warren for his service to the City and heroic actions to the department over the last twelve months and wished him the best going forward. He asked Deputy Chief Warren if there is anything he personally wants to make this department even better. Deputy Chief Warren stated that they are going to try to follow the same lead the Police followed in hiring. They will try to get into the community more than in the past and they will also try to get into the YMCA and the schools. He also stated that he was part of the Diversity Committee and he learned a lot. There is a lot that they can improve on. The EMTC after hiring is one of the most important thing right now.

Councilwoman Marino wished Deputy Chief Warren a lot of luck and appreciates his openness and if there is any assistance the City Council can give along the way, they would love to do it and wished him best of luck.

Council President Paplauskas congratulated Deputy Chief Warren and stated that he knows he will do an excellent job and if there is anything he needs, he reach out to the City Council members.

Councilwoman Vargas stated that she served with Deputy Chief Warren on the Diversity Commission and he has brought up excellent points and wished him luck. She also stated that she commends, whether it was the Administration or the previous Mayor, the fact that the EMTC will not have to be done until after the trainee is in the Academy. She is looking forward to working with him as Chief and make sure that we diversify not just people of color, but Latino community, but also as women to engage and be part of the Fire Department.

Councilwoman Renzulli congratulated Deputy Chief Warren and thanked him for his commitment to diversify and hiring.

Council Vice-President Brady stated that he has heard tremendous things about the Fire Department and doing them doing a great job with the vaccine rollout. He commended Deputy Chief Warren in his advocacy throughout our community.

Roll call was taken on motion to recommend approval of the Advice and Consent of the Mayor's appointment of James Warren as Fire Chief and motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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