



**APPROVED 4-13-2022**

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**FINANCE MEMBERS**

Frank Laflamme, Chairman  
Robert J. Zygarowski, Vice Chairman  
George Balakier  
Gary Labrie  
James Tillotson  
Jerry Roy  
Shane Brooks

**MINUTES**  
**March 8, 2022**

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor/zoom, City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

**Members Present** Brooks (zoom), Balakier, Laflamme, Labrie, Tillotson, Roy, Zygarowski, Roy

**Absent**

**Also Present** Councilor Courchesne, Councilor Dobosz, Councilor Krampits, Councilor Pniak-Costello, Doug Ellis (City Engineer), John Beaulieu (Assistant DPW Superintendent)  
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

In compliance with the Open Meeting Law the Chairman asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting. Hearing none the meeting continued.

**ITEM 1**

BE IT ORDERED THAT the Finance Committee meet to discuss and recommend to the Mayor that the position of Code Enforcement be added to the Law Department.

**Councilor Courchesne** stated that we have a lot of problem properties throughout the city. A lot of these issues can be addressed with someone that can go out and ticket every day. He stated that a Department Head should not be going out to ticket. He stated that all the quality of life issues that build up and impact the neighborhood could easily be addressed by a Code Enforcement Officer. He stated that he doesn't want it in one specific department because it's almost like emergency management. There are sixteen hundred and thirty four requests on SeeClickFix. He stated that the residents are not having things addressed because there is just so many issues out there. It's a great

tool but only when it works. He stated we need someone that can manage it and stay on top of things.

**Councilor Tillotson** stated that if we need a Code Enforcer he thinks the Mayor will agree.

**Councilor Labrie** stated that he agrees that we need a Code Enforcer. He stated that there are a lot of people that don't take care of their property.

**Councilor Roy** asked will they get referrals from the Department Heads.

**Councilor Balakier** stated that other cities and towns have had a Code Enforcement Officer.

**Councilor Krampits** agrees that we do need the Code Enforcement Officer and there needs to be coordination. He stated that we have repeat property offenders, somebody needs to go out there on a pretty consistent basis.

**Councilor Dobosz** stated that he is in favor of a Code Enforcement Officer. He stated that the problem properties can end up in the Law Department and be in court for two or three years. He stated that if we ticket them once a week it will be leaned on their property if they try to sell they will have to pay these fines eventually. He stated it's another weapon that we can use to fight problem properties which is a growing problem.

**Councilor Brooks** stated he would hope the position would be self-funded by the amount of fines levied and people would actually agree to pay them. He stated is there a mechanism for the fines to go to the Law Department general or the City of Chicopee general fund because at some point there will be some litigation fees involved. He stated it's not a bad idea to have this position created but there is probably going to be some ancillary costs that are going to be associated with us to try to get people to comply.

**Councilor Pniak-Costello** asked why there is no problem property committee.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated that it was stopped during Covid-19. He stated that the Mayor has to reinstate the Committee.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated he would like to see this position start part-time and go to full-time if needed. He stated we need input from all the departments. He stated in reviewing some of descriptions, the Building Department would have to handle some of this. He needs to know who has authority.

**Councilor Zygarowski** stated it will be up to the Mayor and the Human Resource Director to establish a department.

**Councilor Laflamme** stated that he would like the Mayor to look at the position in the other neighboring cities to compare. He stated that we are all for this but we would like it done the right way. He suggested that everyone give their recommendations to the Mayor and tell him what their ideas are.

Recommend to the Mayor to review the Code re-enforcement procedures and recommend the solution to the City Council.

Councilor Tillotson motion to approve – Councilor Laflamme 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – motion passed

Committee vote        7 – 0 favorable

ITEM 2

Councilor Zygarowski motion to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021 & December 16, 2021 –  
Councilor Laflamme 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.