

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

Present: Ald. Gentile (Chairman), Ciccone, Linsky, Salvucci, Rice, Blazar, Fuller and Lappin  
Also present: Ald. Danberg  
City officials present: Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer) and Robert Barrett (Chief Information Officer)

#249-12      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Robert N. Barrett as Chief Information Officer, effective August 13, 2012, pursuant to §3-3 of the City Charter. (30 days 09/12/12). [08-06-12 @3:26 PM]

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 8-0**

**NOTE:**      Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux introduced the newly appointed Chief Information Officer Robert Barrett to the Committee. The Chief Information Officer position was created at the recommendation of the IT Advisory Committee. The IT Advisory Committee felt that the City would benefit from a Chief Information Officer who could look holistically at all of the technology within the City and set a vision.

Mr. Barrett provided highlights of his education and experience to the Committee. He is a graduate of MIT, spent 15 years consulting for a well-known IT consulting company and for the last 15 years has been a Chief Information Officer at five different organizations. He has worked with financial companies, manufacturing companies and has some public sector experience. One of Mr. Barrett's jobs as a consultant was with the City of Boston building an IT organization and he has worked in an advisory capacity with the State of Massachusetts.

Mr. Barrett will be forming an IT cluster to bring all IT personnel throughout the City to one table to begin coordinating efforts. It will be an opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues. Mr. Barrett has already begun meeting with groups of IT, as part of the high-speed fiber infrastructure project. In the two months that Mr. Barrett has been with the City, he has started to build an IT vision. Maureen Lemieux added that it is hoped that as part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan and 5-year financial forecast submittal in October that there will be a general 5-year technology plan.

The Committee asked for Mr. Barrett's first impressions of the City's IT Department and equipment. He responded that there is nothing broken but there are some things the City could improve upon in the areas of coordination and communication. The data center at City Hall is unsecure and needs a significant amount of improvement. With that, Ald. Ciccone moved approval, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chairman