



Apr 27 2023 1:52 pm

**City of Fitchburg
Massachusetts 01420**

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large

Marcus L. DiNatale
Sally H. Cragin
Amy L. Green
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella

President

Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President

Andrew J. Van Hazinga

Ward Councilors

Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz, III
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor DiNatale on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 6:06 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Marcus DiNatale, Samantha Squailia, Andrew Van Hazinga, and Anthony Zarrella.

Committee Members absent: None.

The chairman read an announcement regarding the recording of public meetings, noting that FATV was recording and broadcasting the meeting. No other person stated that they were recording the meeting.

The chairman opened the meeting for public comment. Jacquelyn Wehtje spoke in opposition to Order# 100-23.

100-23 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Best Value grant in the approximate amount of \$135,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to continue providing staffing for various vaccine clinics and to continue providing outreach and collaborate with key stakeholders.

Discussion: Public Health Director Steve Curry was present.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Zarrella second by Councilor Squailia, the committee voted to approve Order #100-23. The vote was 4-1 with Councilor DiNatale in opposition.

Councilor Squailia recused herself on Order #101-23 and left the room.

101-23 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law grant in the approximate amount of \$256,491.00 (TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-ONE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to perform an environmental assessment and wildlife hazard assessment on the airport property.

Discussion: Interim Airport Manager Peter Kettle was present. The chairman read a letter from Mr. Kettle dated March 31, 2023. In response to a question, Mr. Kettle stated that this grant will provide funds to cover assessment costs as a first step toward expansion and possibly additional hangars. A medical airlift company is working out of the Fitchburg airport and is interested in hangar space. Mr. Kettle noted that they also purchase fuel and that the hangars will generate property taxes for the city.

Councilors thought the grant was to construct a fence. Mr. Kettle explained that the airport has to first determine the extent of wildlife on the property (deer, geese, and fox) and will need permission to remove them. This grant will help generate the needed information.

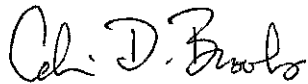
Action: On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #101-23.

Councilor Squailia returned.

On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk