



FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

Jun 10 2022 8:34 am

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, June 8, 2022 at 6:33 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, Marcus DiNatale, 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. No one spoke.

170-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Public Health Excellence grant in the approximate amount of \$300,000.00 (THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is expand on shared services between municipalities in the Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN).

Discussion: The chairman announced that this order was approved at the City Council meeting held June 7, 2022 under suspension of the rules and did not need to be discussed at this meeting.

171-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfields Assessment Grant Program in the approximate amount of \$300,000.00 (THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to

conduct environmental assessments of several key properties over the next four years.

Discussion: Community Development Director Tom Skwierawski was present. He stated that this EPA grant will allow the city to conduct Phase 1 and Phase 2 brownfields assessments on either city owned or private property. He said that most city sites have some brownfields issues because of the city's industrial past. These assessments help with due diligence when marketing property.

Councilors asked if it could be used on non-tax title cases. Mr. Skwierawski said that grant funds could be used on any property, even in conjunction with a private developer looking at a private development. For the past few years, this grant had been overseen by the Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #171-22.

172-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Republic Services Foundation's National Neighborhood Promise Fund in the approximate amount of \$200,000.00 (TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is construct a stage at Riverfront Park.

Discussion: Mr. Skwierawski remained. He noted that he had mentioned the possibility of this grant earlier with the Finance Committee, and he is now able to state the source and amount. This grant was the result of working with NewVue Communities to obtain it. These funds will be combined with other city and state funds to complete the project. The intention is to make more use of Riverfront Park for community activities.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #172-22.

173-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the MassDevelopment, Site Readiness Grant Program in the approximate amount of \$100,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to conduct assessment/development studies on reuse of portions of the Fitchburg Municipal Airport.

Discussion: Mr. Skwierawski remained. He said this program had been used before with the sand pit property. The study will look at developmental land at the airport, from both an aviation and non-aviation viewpoint and create a plan. Councilors asked about the possibility of a restaurant and Mr. Skwierawski replied that a restaurant is a possibility.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #173-22.

174-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Shared Streets and Spaces Program grant in the approximate amount of \$199,646.64 (ONE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FORTY-SIX AND 64/100

DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to fund the Franklin Road Sidewalk/Safe Routes to School Enhancement project.

Discussion: Mr. Skwierawski remained. He said that the Community Development Department obtained the grant and that the Department of Public Works will oversee the project—a cooperative effort. The grant will be used to replace some aging sidewalks on the route used by Reingold School students.

Councilors thanked Mr. Skwierawski for the grant and asked if the work can extend to Exeter Street. Mr. Skwierawski will review that possibility.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #174-22.

175-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Shared Streets and Spaces Program grant in the approximate amount of \$47,00.00 (FORTY-SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to fund the Boutelle Street Traffic Calming project.

Discussion: Mr. Skwierawski remained. He said this grant is from the same program as the previous order, but in a different bucket. It is for obtaining road equipment—signs and flashing lights to indicate speed. His department has been working with residents and the ward councilor to develop this project.

Councilors asked if CDBG funds will be used. Mr. Skwierawski said that about \$30,000 in block grant funds will be used to complete this project. Chapter 90 funds will be used on the Franklin Road project mentioned in the previous order.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #175-22.

176-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Federal Aviation Administration, Airport Rescue Grant in the approximate amount of \$59,000.00 (FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to repair the hangers at the airport, or other projects which may arise.

Discussion: Airport Manager Peter Kettle was present. He indicated that they have applied for other grants totaling \$219,000 and that they will be using some of these funds to cover the city match. The plan is to repair the roofs and doors at two hangars that are about ninety years old. The structures are in good shape; they just need new doors and roofs.

Councilors were pleased that the city is not being asked to contribute its share directly. They are excited to see the airport growing.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #176-22.

177-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of TWO HUNDRED SIXTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$260.00) same to be transferred from VETERANS BENEFITS, CASH BENEFITS and credited to VETERANS EXPENSES, MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION.

Discussion: City Auditor Calvin Brooks explained that this request is some end of year housekeeping and is just transferring funds within the Veterans budget.
Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #177-22.

178-22 ORDER: that there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of TWO THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$2,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to the following FACILITIES PERSONAL SERVICES accounts:

CUSTODIAN	\$700.00
CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	\$750.00
OVERTIME	\$550.00.

Discussion: Mr. Brooks explained that this order is also some year end housekeeping, the result of a hiring decision made after the FY2022 budget was set and the clothing allowance being missed in an earlier order ratifying a new collective bargaining agreement.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #178-22.

179-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of SEVEN THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$7,199.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to TREASURER PERSONAL SERVICES, ASSISTANT TO DEPARTMENT HEAD.

Discussion: City Treasurer Anne Cervantes was present. She announced that the long time Assistant Treasurer had resigned and a replacement has been hired. These funds would cover the cost of keeping both on the payroll until June 30th to allow for proper training of the new Assistant Treasurer.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Beauchemin, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #179-22.

180-22 ORDER: that there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$12,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to COUNCIL ON AGING PERSONAL SERVICES, SICK TIME BUYBACK for the purpose of paying a retiring employee.

Discussion: Mr. Brooks stated that the Executive Director of the Council on Aging is retiring and the cost of sick time buyback had not been included in the original budget set last year.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #180-22.

181-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$52,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, WORKERS COMPENSATION.

Discussion: Human Resources Director Susan Davis was present. She stated that the workers compensation account was over budget because of some settlements and larger payment

recently. Councilors noted that this line item is cyclical, with some years being higher than others.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #181-22.

182-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$20,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, POLICE CHAPTER 41.

Discussion: Ms. Davis remained. She said that this request is similar to the previous one, a combination of settlements and larger cases. This account is specific to police injured on duty claims.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Van Hazinga, second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #182-22.

183-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$54,279.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to the following accounts:

ASSESSOR, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 6,133.00
TREASURER, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 9,147.00
CITY CLERK, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 7,760.00
COMM. DEV., PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 744.00
POLICE, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 8,674.00
FIRE, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 2,328.00
BUILDING, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 5,767.00
HEALTH, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 5,924.00
COUNCIL ON AGING, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 4,990.00
VETERANS, PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ 1,990.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, OTHER BENEFITS	\$ 822.00

184-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the following PERSONAL SERVICES accounts the sum of TWO THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,962.00) same to be credited to the following accounts:

WATER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$ 2,962.00
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Discussion: The chairman announced that Orders #183-22 and #184-22 would be taken together. Ms. Davis remained. She said that this contract settlement is for the AFSCME union which represents the clerical group. They are the ones who keep everything moving within the departments.

Councilors asked about the language of Order #184-22. Mr. Brooks explained that for contracts to be effective, City Council has to appropriate funds to cover the first year costs. For enterprise funds, there are generally sufficient funds within the personal services accounts to cover the contract costs. However, to meet the requirement that first year costs are approved

by City Council, the money is taken from the various personal services accounts and then put back in to them indicating City Council's acceptance of the new contract.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Orders #183-22 and #184-22.

185-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$15,200.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to LAW OTHER EXPENSES , DAMAGES PERSONS AND PROPERTY to cover compensation to property owners affected by the Circle Street Bridge project.

Discussion: The chairman read a letter from City Solicitor Vincent Pusateri dated June 2, 2022. Councilors noted that these funds are to cover the costs of easements required to undertake this project and are typical.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #185-22.

186-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of NINE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$950,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to LAW OTHER EXPENSES, DAMAGES PERSONS & PROPERTY to settle a claim at the airport.

Discussion: The chairman read the order.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Zarrella, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #186-22.

187-22 ORDER: that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to the following LAW OTHER EXPENSES accounts:

LITIGATION & SPECIAL COUNSEL	\$50,000.00
LABOR NEGOTIATOR	\$50,000.00

Discussion: Mr. Brooks explained that this order is also part of year end housekeeping, with the need for additional funds for litigation and special counsel arising because of the recent claim at the airport and for labor negotiator arising because of the recent settlement of five labor contracts. Councilors noted that the sums may seem extravagant, but in looking at the detail they are actually a great deal.

Action: On a motion by Councilor Cruz, second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #187-22.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk

