

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATE: JUNE 29, 2020
TIME: 7:03 P.M.
PLACE: HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW G. L. C. 30A, SECTION 20 AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE TO WAIVE RULE 21A

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS LINDA MORAD, CHAIRPERSON; DEREK BAPTISTE; NAOMI CARNEY; DEBORA COELHO; MARIA GIESTA; BRIAN GOMES; SCOTT LIMA; JOSEPH LOPES; WILLIAM BRAD MARKRY

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR IAN ABREU, VICE- CHAIRMAN; COUNCILLOR HUGH DUNN

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Councillor Morad called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Abreu explaining his absence from this meeting. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a 1. COMMUNICATION, Community Preservation Committee to City Council, submitting the FY2020 Community Preservation Act Funding recommendations (Ref'd 03/12/2020) and RECOMMENDATIONS, Community Preservation Committee submitting FY2020 Funding Recommendations for eleven (11) Projects totaling \$1,145,011.00 (Ref'd 03/12/2020) were received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (1, 1a)

Ms. Jessica Bailey and Ms. Janine DaSilva from the Community Preservation Committee was present to answer questions and gave overviews of each of the eleven (11) projects which need to be taken up separately.

1. Buttonwood Park Stormwater Management for \$67,800

Ms. Bailey told the Committee this would be a Consultant on pond health to develop a plan to clean water, the work towards the second phase to upgrade the pond.

Councillor Lima spoke in support of this proposal and explained the city has approve for funds to the State and Federal Government to assist with this project.

Councillor Carney asked if money has been put aside for phase two and she was told no; this money would allow for a plan to develop that would deal with implementing phase two. The applicant would have a better budget idea once step one is done.

Ms. Bailey explained part of the discussion when the applicant applied for the funding was that this would cover design and permitting allowing documents to go out to bid.

Councillor Baptiste asked if \$67,000 was the going rate for consultants, and Ms. Bailey explained that applicants will be required to submit a bid, they received bids that were higher and lower, the chosen bid was in the middle. DPI is working with the Park Department on this project as well.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$67,800 for the Buttonwood Park Stormwater Management. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

2. Capitol Theatre Renovations for \$200,000

Ms. DaSilva explained this was for mixed use commercial and residential property. The CDED was involved with this project as well.

Councillor Giesta voiced her support for this project.

Councillor Morad asked if last year's award of \$350,000 for this project was used to help with the purchase of the building and she was told it was also funds used to repair the roof.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$200,000 for Capitol Theatre Renovations. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

3. Digitization of Maritime Records/Whaling Logbooks for \$10,000

Ms. Bailey explained this project was to digitize 76 whaling logbooks on a website overseen by the Library. The Library has the third largest collection of logbooks on whaling in the entire world. They have more than 100 books that need to be digitized. The \$10,000 will allow for the first phase to take place.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$10,000 for Digitization of Maritime Records/Whaling Logbooks. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 2, with Councillors Baptiste and Morad opposed.

4. Digitization of Milton Silva Negative Collection for \$20,000

Ms. Bailey told the Committee that the Application was submitted by Spinner Publications, and that Milton Silva was a photographer for the Standard Times for forty years. He has since passed away and the family is passing on 100,000 negatives and some 200,000 pictures to be preserved in a collection.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$20,000 for Digitization of Milton Silva Negative Collection. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 7, Nays 2, with Councillor Baptiste and Morad opposed.

5. *First Baptist Church/Steeple Playhouse for \$56,900*

Ms. Bailey told the Committee that the submission is to help install a fire suppression unit in the Church/Theatre. The sprinkler system is needed to be granted a certificate of occupancy. They did receive a grant from the 1772 Foundation, which is helping with the installation,

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$56,900 for the First Baptist Church/Steeple Playhouse. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

6. *Gilbert Russell House Restoration for \$175,000*

Ms. Bailey told the Committee it is a full house restoration and the project is also applying for additional funds elsewhere as well.

Councillor Morad asked if bids have been submitted and she was told that bids received from last year were used in calculating this years' allotment.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$175,000 for the Gilbert Russell House Restoration. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed.

7. *Hazelwood Park Bowling Green for \$50,000*

Ms. Bailey told the Committee that this item has been before the City Council several times, and the Friends of Hazelwood are overseeing the project. These funds will pay for a fence to be put around the Bowling Green to protect it. This last request will complete the project and the project has received matching funds.

Councillor Lopes spoke in favor of this proposal.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$50,000 for the Hazelwood Park Bowling Green. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

8. *Hillman Street Firehouse Lofts Restoration for \$300,000*

Ms. Bailey told the Committee that the request will replace and re-enforce the roof on this structure. Major damage has been done to the building because of water infiltration and patchwork. This will allow construction and creation of six (6) affordable housing units and three (3) market value units.

Councillor Baptiste expressed his support of this project stating the building has long since been an eyesore in the neighborhood and that this rehabilitation is a step in the right direction.

Councillor Morad asked if bids were received and she was told yes, one bid at \$320,000. She asked if this was a WHALE project and Ms. Bailey told her this is the first phase of the project. WHALE did receive \$50,000 from the 1772 Foundation towards the project. Councillor Morad asked that a breakdown of the figures be provided to the Committee and Ms. Bailey said she would forward them.

On motion by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$300,000 for the Hillman Street Firehouse Lofts Restoration. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed.

9. Temple Landing II for \$180,811

Ms. Bailey told the Committee that this request will allow for a study to be done to place Senior ADA Housing (26 Units) adjacent to Temple Landing.

Councillor Baptiste stated that he understood the need for additional senior housing, but that he has some concerns of the placement of the units. It is proposed that they will be placed in the middle of the current Temple Landing. He has not seen the plan yet and has concerns.

On motion by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$180,811 for the Temple Landing II. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

10. Verdean Vets Memorial Hall for \$55,000

Ms. Bailey told the Committee that this application is for the replacement and structural support for the roof at the establishment. She also told the Committee that out of all the projects before them tonight, this project had the most supporters in attendance when the proposal was heard.

Councillor Gomes spoke in favor of this proposal and urged his Colleagues to support the funding.

Councillor Baptiste also spoke in favor of the project and the history of the building and what it stands for in its community.

Councillor Lima also voiced his support for this much needed project.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$55,000 for the Verdean Vets Memorial Hall. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

11. West Beach Bathhouse Renovations for \$29,500

Ms. Bailey told the Committee that this proposal was submitted by the city looking to fund a design that would make the bathhouse more ADA compliant. This is the next step in bringing the bathrooms up to code.

This proposal was submitted by city looking to fund a design that would make the bath house more ADA compliant. This is the next step in bringing the bathrooms up to code. They city is working with the Commission on Disabilities to develop the plan.

Councillor Lopes voiced his support for this project.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$29,500 for the West Beach Bathhouse Renovations. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

Councillor Morad asked several questions of Ms. Bailey and Ms. DaSilva as to why certain items were passed over, like Haskell Gardens request, the City Clerk's request and the Car Barn request. She was told there was just not enough money in this round, that the items chosen were items that the CPA felt were urgent, especially the roofs. The Haskell Project was for the creation of three chicken coops and the City Clerk's request was for archiving city records, but that it was a small amount going towards a larger cost.

Ms. DaSilva did state that they could apply for the next round of requests and that they would more than likely be taken into consideration at that time. In relation to the Car Barn the Committee had concerns that this was a private entity, looking for full funding, without showing the proper maintenance of the building had been conducted over the years. They had a lot of questions especially as it related to the Car Barn Project.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER, of the Community Preservation Act Funding Recommendations for eleven (11) Projects totaling \$1,145,011.00. This motion passed on voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Community Preservation Committee voted on May 28, 2020 to recommend to the City Council the Community Preservation Act Fiscal Year 2021 Budget (Ref'd 6/11/2020) and the CPA ANNUAL BUDGET, the FY21 budget is based on estimated local annual revenues of \$1,713,004.00 and estimated State of Massachusetts match of \$120,716.00 (Ref'd 6/11/2020) were received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (2, 2a)

Ms. Bailey explained January's numbers have been confirmed by the Assessor's Office and the State is providing an 11.2% match for the CPA FY21. Numbers were also provided by the Department of Revenue. It is a conservative figure due to COVID-19, and if there is more money granted throughout the year it will be added to the FY2022 figure.

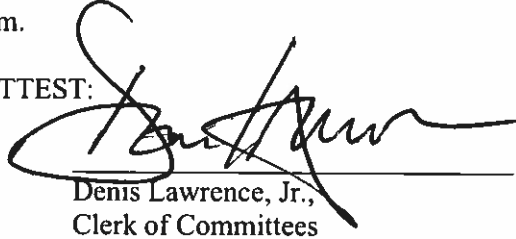
Councillor Giesta asked why the match was so low and she was told due to the pandemic, though it is the same or near the same as FY2020. The match is based on the 176 communities. New Bedford has a surcharge collected of 1.5%.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the Communication and annual CPA Budget for FY21. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Lopes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Markey.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:29 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees