

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATE: APRIL 14, 2021
TIME: 7:01 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 (REMOTELY); JOSEPH LOPES, VICE CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); IAN ABREU (REMOTELY); DEREK BAPTISTE (7:06) (REMOTELY); NAOMI CARNEY (REEMOTELY); DEBORA COELHO (REMOTELY); HUGH DUNN (REMOTELY); MARIA GIESTA (REMOTELY); BRIAN GOMES (REMOTELY); SCOTT LIMA (REMOTELY); WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY (REMOTELY)

ABSENT: NO ONE

* * *

Councillor Morad called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance; everyone was present.

* * *

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council submitting an Order authorizing the City to enter into a five-year capital lease purchase agreement for replacement vehicles assigned to the Departments of Facilities and Fleet Management and the Fire Department (Ref'd 03/25/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lopes. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes and Councillor Baptiste not present for the vote. (1, 1a)

CFO Ari Sky, DPI Commissioner Jamie Ponte and DFFM Commissioner Mark Champagne gave an overview of the order to enter into a five-year capital lease purchase agreement to replace vehicles assigned to the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management and the Fire Department.

The lease purchase agreement will be for a total of fourteen (14) vehicles. Twelve (12) between DPI and DFFM and two (2) to the Fire Department. The vehicles they are looking to replace have exceeded their life expectancy. For example, most are fifteen (15) years or older and are front line vehicles, which means they are used every day, every year. They will be looking to replace a Street Sweeper Vac, Mini Packer, and an Arial Lift. The Fire Department will receive two (2) F250's for the Field Supervisors.

They were asked if the vehicles would be sold or scrapped. Commissioner Ponte explained, for the most part they would be scrapped, but that they would take what parts they could use for future repairs.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of AN ORDER, authorizing the City to enter into a five-year capital lease purchase agreement for replacement vehicles assigned to the Departments of Facilities and Fleet Management and the Fire Department in the amount of \$1,853,076 (1,087,050 from the General Fund and \$766,026 from Wastewater Fund). This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

* * *

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$1,500,000.00 to pay the costs of improvements, maintenance and implementations of remediation methods at Sassaquin Pond and the surrounding watershed area; this year's project for the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Ref'd 03/25/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (2, 2a)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$3,700,000.00 to pay costs of reconstruction, expansion and renovation of the City Yard Campus including the City's Central Garage, Truck Shed and Wastewater Garage, Police Garage, and Fire Garage; this year's project for the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (Ref'd 03/25/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (3, 3a)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$5,585,000.00 for the purpose of making critically-needed repairs to City-owned buildings including, but not limited to, projects for the repair and renovation of public safety facilities, recreational facilities, general office space and road and infrastructure; this year's project for the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) (Ref'd 03/25/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (4,4a)

Councillor Morad announced that CFO Sky was going to do a power point presentation that was sent by email from the Clerk of Committees Office to the Committee so that the Committee can follow along with CFO Sky.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the Power Point Presentation sent by email from the Clerk of Committee Office to the Committee. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 11, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

CFO Ari Sky gave a power point presentation on the Capital Need Assessments for 2020 through 2025 a five-year cycle. The total request is for \$120,712,035. The figure submitted is a little higher than in the past because it includes an extra school project.

An overview of renovations to be done at the Hillman Street Complex, the Zeiterion, Agnes Braz Building, Zoo renovations, Fleet Maintenance, Sassaquin Pond, Buttonwood Pond, Server and Communications, North fire Station, and Public Safety Systems as well as School renovations.

As it related to the \$1,500,000 order the funding would cover the following:

Hillman Street Complex: Middle of project need to complete the first floor of building 9 which will house the Council on Aging and Community Services.

Lawler Library: Modernization and safety issues. 25-year-old HVAC System needs to be replaced.

Howland Green Library: Modernization and safety issues. Same as above.

Art Museum: Windows and doors.

Park Improvements: Safety upgrades, to include tennis courts and ADA accessibility.

Monkey Island: Being undermined by the ocean, will need to be restructured and shored up.

NBHS Renovation: The replacement of the girl's locker room.

Pulaski School: Roof top HVAC System and roof repairs.

As it related to the \$3,700,000 Order it was explained that \$1.9 million would be used towards Fleet Management Improvements, it would redesign and construct the garage area and \$800,000 would go toward replacing the roofs on the smaller buildings on site at the City Yard.

A discussion on the application of the \$5,585,000 Order was also discussed.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$1,500,000 to pay the costs of improvements, maintenance and implementations of remediation methods at Sassaquin Pond and the surrounding watershed area; this year's project for the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program

(CIP). This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes, and Councillors Coelho and Gomes not present for the vote. (2a)

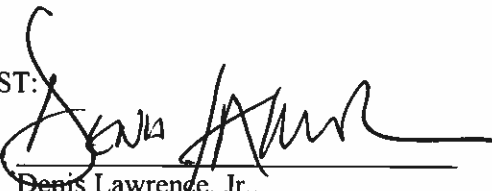
On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$3,700,000.00 to pay costs of reconstruction, expansion and renovation of the City Yard Campus including the City's Central Garage, Truck Shed and Wastewater Garage, Police Garage, and Fire Garage; this year's project for the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 1, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes; Councillor Carney opposed and Councillors Coelho and Gomes not present for the vote. (3a)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$5,585,000.00 for the purpose of making critically-needed repairs and renovation of public safety facilities, recreational facilities, general office space and road and infrastructure; this year's project for the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, Yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes; with Councillors Coelho and Gomes not present for the vote. (4a)

Councillor Lopes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Lima. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes; with Councillors Coelho and Gomes not present for the vote.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:28 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees