

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING:** COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
**DATE:** MARCH 22, 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, (7:10) (REMOTELY); NAOMI CARNEY (REMOTELY); DEBORA COELHO (REMOTELY); HUGH DUNN (REMOTELY); MARIA GIESTA (REMOTELY); SCOTT LIMA (REMOTELY); WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY (REMOTELY)

**ABSENT:** COUNCILLOR BRIAN GOMES

\* \* \*

Councillor Morad called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read a Communication from Councillor Gomes explaining he would be late attending this meeting. This Communication was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta and passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Baptiste not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

\* \* \*

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, R. Renee Fernandes, Treasurer/Collector to Councillor Linda M. Morad, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, requesting a Finance Committee meeting to increase the interim loan amount for CW-18-31 from \$2,413,000 to \$2,500,000 (Ref'd 02/12/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Baptiste not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes. (1)

Renee Fernandes, Treasurer/Collector was present (remotely) and gave an overview of the city's request to increase the interim loan amount for CW-18-31 from \$2,413,000 to \$2,500,000. She explained that the increase was needed to cover the actual costs of the Water Departments Optimization Project.

Councillor Lopes asked if the terms and conditions of the loan were to remain the same and he was told yes.

Jamie Ponte, DPI Commissioner, was present (remotely) and explained that the additional funds would allow for a pilot study to increase the nitrogen removal from the

water processing plant discharge, which is better for the environment. The requested amount is short term dollars for long term gains. The length of the pilot study is hard to pin down, but they have been in the process for a while now; he thought perhaps a year.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To approve the sale of a zero percent \$2,500,000 Interim Loan Note of the City to the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, with respect to Loan Commitment CW-18-31. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

\* \* \*

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a RELATED MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting that a representative of the New Bedford Harbor Commission d/b/a New Bedford Port Authority appear before the Committee on Finance in December 2020 to detail any additional expenses that were required above the \$800,000 purchase price for the Commission to be able to occupy the property at 123 MacArthur Drive (To be Referred to the New Bedford Harbor Commission d/b/a New Bedford Port Authority and the Committee on Finance.) (Ref'd 05/28/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Abreu. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (2)

George Krikorian, Interim Executive Director of the New Bedford Port Authority was present (remotely) and gave an update on their move to their new location at 123 MacArthur Drive. They moved into the location in the beginning of August 2020. The facility is suiting them well, the entire team is in the building now. The building was built to suit for \$800,000. There haven't been any overruns or expenses. The only issue that had to be addressed was completing the work needed to the elevators. They are in the process of constructing a workshop, which was not a part of the initial contract with the seller.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the RELATED MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting that a representative of the New Bedford Harbor Commission d/b/a New Bedford Port Authority appear before the Committee on Finance in December 2020 to detail any additional expenses that were required above the \$800,000 purchase price for the Commission to be able to occupy the property at 123 MacArthur Drive. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes.

\* \* \*

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Janine da Silva, Chairperson, Community Preservation Committee, submitting the Community Preservation Committee's FY21 Community Preservation Act Funding recommendations (Ref'd 3/11/2021) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with

Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Coelho, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes; Morad, yes. (3)

Janine da Silva, Community Preservation Act Committee Chairperson, and Jessica Bailey, Community Preservation Act Coordinator were both present (remotely) to give overviews of the projects that have been awarded by the Community Preservation Act FY21 funding. Twenty-nine applicants participated in Phase 1 of the application process out of the twenty-nine, twenty-seven submitted full applications in November of 2020 at the same time the Committee met. They also had three public hearings and three deliberations through January and February which led to the funding of eighteen projects. Out of the eighteen projects allowed for, fourteen of them are being fully funded.

Conversations between the Finance Committee members and Ms. Bailey and Ms. da Silva took place where specific questions were asked as they related to each of the projects allowed for. The questions varied in their nature and were answered appropriately by the participants. The questions addressed items 1-18 individually. At the completion of the question and answer period each item was voted on separately.

***1. 117 Union Street/Moby Dick for \$250,000***

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$250,000 for the 117 Union Street/Moby Dick. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***2. Abolition Row Park Phase II for \$126,208***

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$126,208 for the Abolition Row Park Phase II. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***3. Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens Bird Coop Restoration for \$18,576***

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$18,576 for Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens Bird Coop Restoration. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***4. Brooklawn Park Green Infrastructure Demonstration Garden Design for \$59,990***

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$59,990 for the Brooklawn Park Green Infrastructure Demonstration Garden Design. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

**5. *City Clerk Record Preservation Phase 1 for \$50,000***

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$50,000 for the City Clerk Record Preservation Phase 1. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

**6. *First Baptist Church Restoration Project for \$100,000***

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$100,000 for the First Baptist Church Restoration Project. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

**7. *Gilbert Russell House Restoration and Preservation for \$50,000***

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$50,000 for the Gilbert Russell House Restoration and Preservation. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed, Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes.

**8. *Habitat Restoration and Landscape Improvements Demonstration Project at Riverside Park for \$60,000***

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$60,000 for the Habitat Restoration and Landscape Improvements Demonstration Project at Riverside Park. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

**9. *Island Park for \$200,000***

On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$200,000 for Island Park. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

**10. *James Arnold Mansion, Inc. Roof Phase II & Exterior Preservation Master Plan for \$63,000***

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Markey, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$63,000 for the James Arnold Mansion, Inc. Roof Phase II & Exterior Preservation Master Plan. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors

Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***11. LBGTQ Community Center for \$200,000***

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$200,000 for the LBGTQ+ Community Center. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***12. New Bedford Whaling Museum: Bourne & Wood Buildings Masonry Restoration for \$135,000***

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$135,000 for the New Bedford Whaling Museum: Bourne & Wood Buildings Masonry Restoration. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 8, Nays 1, with Councillor Morad opposed, Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes.

***13. Outdoor Classroom Gardens at NBPS Elementary Schools for \$103,730***

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$103,730 for Outdoor Classroom Gardens at NBPS Elementary Schools. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***14. Rotch Jones Duff House Painting for \$89,700***

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$89,700 for the Rotch Jones Duff House Painting. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***15. Sgt. William H. Carney House Roof Replacement & Structural Support for \$26,000***

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$26,000 for the Sgt. William H. Carney House Roof Replacement & Structural Support. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.



***16. Seamen's Bethel Property Restoration for \$35,000***

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$35,000 for the Seamen's Bethel Property Restoration. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***17. Verdean Veterans Memorial Hall for \$12,200***

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Baptiste, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$12,200 for the Verdean Veterans Memorial Hall. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

***18. William Allen Wall Painting Conservation for \$23,000***

On motion by Councillor Abreu and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To APPROVE the \$23,000 for the William Allen Wall Painting Conservation. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Lima, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER, of the Community Preservation Act Funding Recommendations for the eighteen (18) Projects totaling \$1,602,404.00. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

\* \* \*

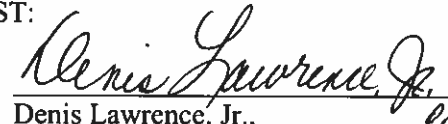
Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Councillor Morad submitting a letter from Gerard Arnaudet, Ex. Director, New Bedford Retirement Board, notifying the City Council that the Retirement Board voted to increase the COLA Base from \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00 effective July 1, 2020. (Ref'd 01/09/2020) (4)

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file and recommend to the City Council to take "No Further Action" on the COMMUNICATION, Councillor Morad submitting a letter from Gerard Arnaudet, Ex. Director, New Bedford Retirement Board, notifying the City Council that the Retirement Board voted to increase the COLA Base from \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00 effective July 1, 2020. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0, with Councillor Coelho not present for the vote and Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Lima, yes; Lopes, yes; Markey, yes and Morad, yes.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 9:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees