

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022
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 WITH AN EXTENSION SIGNED ON JUNE 16, 2021, AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE TO WAIVE RULE 21A ON JANUARY 13, 2022

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); SCOTT LIMA, VICE CHAIRMAN (REMOTELY); IAN ABREU (REMOTELY); DEREK BAPTISTE (REMOTELY); SHANE BURGO (REMOTELY); NAOMI CARNEY (REMOTELY); HUGH DUNN (REMOTELY); MARIA GIESTA (REMOTELY); BRIAN GOMES (REMOTELY); RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR LINDA MORAD

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Councillor Markey called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Chair announced he got a call from Councillor Morad, and she has a family emergency and would not be attending this meeting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to the City Council, submitting AN ORDER pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53A, the City Council hereby accepts a grant of \$64,729,754 through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund from the U.S. Department of Treasury pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act (Ref'd 08/19/2021) (9/20/2021 – tabled, 45 days) (12/13/2021 – tabled) (02/17/2022 – tabled) was removed from the table 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; Burgo, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Markey, yes; Pereira, yes. (1a, 1b)

On motion by Councillor Lima and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To received and place on file the spreadsheet created by Councillor Morad on the spending category for the ARPA Funding. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Burgo, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Markey, yes; Pereira, yes.

David Gerwatowski, Legal Counsel Attorney gave an overview of how the Council could accept the figures calculated by Councillor Morad. The Committee would need to substitute the current Order submitted by the Mayor with the Council's Order and vote to do this. Then the Committee would need to approve "Exhibit A" which in this case was a copy of the Committee's calculation, then the Committee would need to make a motion to send the recommendation to the full City Council for approval. He was

asked if the Committee could make changes to the calculations, and he informed them that the Committee could and would need six (6) votes to make such a change.

A discussion ensued about how the ARPA funds could be used towards public safety. Ms. Rapoza, ARPA Director, stated that funding could be allowed if the public safety submission were in direct relationship to COVID. The question of using funding for body cameras were discussed and Mr. Gagne explained that the State including the Governor were looking to fund body cameras for the Police Departments statewide. He went on to say that money could be attributed to public safety if it was deemed the pandemic caused a hardship to the city. He cited the securing and addition of an ambulance to the city's roster. Because of the number of emergency calls and hospital runs taking place because of COVID-19, they would be in the position to use the funds to secure an additional ambulance.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To substitute the Mayor's Order in place of the Council's Order, "that pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53A, the City Council hereby approves the expenditures as specifically allocated in the attached exhibit A, of \$64,729,754 American Rescue Plan Act Grant Funds received directly from the U.S. Department of Treasury." This motion FAILED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 5, Nays 5, with Councillors Baptiste, yes; Carney, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Pereira, yes; Abreu, no; Burgo, no; Dunn, no; Giesta, no; Markey, no.

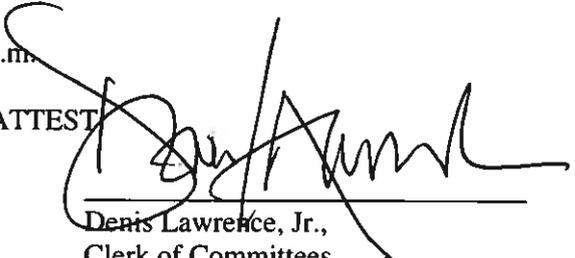
On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: That the City Council accept the investment of funds under the American Rescue Plan Act pursuant to the amended proposal communication from the Administration dated February 15, 2022. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 6, Nays 4, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Burgo, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Markey, yes; Carney, no; Gomes, no; Lima, no; Pereira, no.

A motion was not made to report out from Committee to the City Council; the matter remains in Committee.

Councillor Abreu made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Dunn. This motion passed on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0, with Councillors Abreu, yes; Baptiste, yes; Burgo, yes; Carney, yes; Dunn, yes; Giesta, yes; Gomes, yes; Lima, yes; Markey, yes; Pereira, yes.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees