

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: JUNE 16, 2022

TIME: 7:02 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; SHANE BURGO; NAOMI CARNEY; HUGH DUNN; BRIAN GOMES; LINDA MORAD; RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS SCOTT LIMA, VICE CHAIRMAN; DEREK BAPTISTE; MARIA GIESTA

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Councillor Markey called the Finance Committee Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications from Councillors Giesta and Lima explaining their absences from this meeting. These Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Carney.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting ORDERS OF TAKING for Recorded Land and Registered for the Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road/Sassaquin Avenue Intersection Improvements Project and appraisal summaries for temporary and permanent easements across privately owned property which are needed for said project (Ref'd 06/09/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Carney and seconded by Councillor Burgo. (1, 1a, 1b, 1c)

Justin Chicca, representing DPI, gave an overview of the land takings and easements needed by the city to erect traffic lights at Peckham Road and Acushnet Avenue. He explained that the process began in 2018 with a needs assessment. This assessment has resulted in the DOT approving and funding the installation of traffic lights in this area. He confirmed that all the abutters have been notified and that the property appraisals for the taking of property was done by a DOT approved independent appraiser.

Lisa Sherman, the city's consultant from Camp, Dresser, and McKee, (CDM) confirmed that all the appraisals, both permanent and temporary have been done by an approved appraiser and meet the State standards. She also explained how the timing of the lights are adjusted as needed using cameras on the light fixtures that register with the control box to control the flow of traffic.

It was explained that this project is being funded by the DOT and the easement payment will be paid out of Chapter 90 funds. This project will have no costs passed on to the city.

The Committee asked if the neighbors had been reached out to an addressed any concerns they may have had. Mr. Chicca confirmed that this had taken place.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDERS OF TAKING for Recorded Land and Registered Land for the Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road/Sassaquin Avenue Intersection Improvements Projects and Appraisal Summaries for temporary and permanent easements across privately owned property which are needed for said project. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Community Preservation Committee submitting the CPA annual budget for fiscal year 2023 recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses and community preservation projects in fiscal year 2023 (To be Referred to the Committee on Finance.) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Dunn. (2)

Janine da Silva, Community Preservation Committee Chairperson, gave an overview of the CPA budget proposal for FY23. She provided the Committee with a breakdown of the funding which included a breakdown of the CPA's administrative costs.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council APPROVAL of the CPA annual budget for fiscal year 2023 for committee administrative expenses and community preservation projects in fiscal year 2023. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER, that the City appropriates \$2,100,200 as a match requirement for waterfront capital improvements by the New Bedford Port Authority (Ref'd 05/24/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Dunn. (3, 3a)

George Krikorian, Jr., Executive Director of Finance, New Bedford Port Authority was present and gave an overview for the request of the city appropriating \$2,100,200 as a match requirement for a waterfront capital improvement project. He explained to the Committee that the funding would be used for improvements and repairs to Pier 3, the State Pier, and the South Terminal area, to include a new fender system to protect fishing vessels. He confirmed that this project is for the fishing industry and did not have an offshore wind component. 100% of the funds would be used towards pier repair and fendering systems. The Committee asked if there was a way to assure that if they recommended approval of the funds, that they would be used as proposed.

Attorney Blair Bailey of the Port Authority explained that the funds by law, could only be used for projects such as this.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To amend the ORDER to include that the Port Authority shall issue periodic statements on expenditures of how the funds are spent to the City Council. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Dunn and seconded by Councillor Abreu, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER, AS AMENDED, that the City appropriates \$2,100,200 as a match requirement for waterfront capital improvements by the New Bedford Port Authority; and that the Port Authority shall issue periodic statements on expenditures of how the funds are spent to the City Council. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$332,419.00 from HEALTH, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$285,000.00 and MIS, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$47,419.00 to GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED, OTHER FINANCING USES (Ref'd 06/09/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Carney. (4, 4a)

Michael Gagne, Interim Chief Financial Officer, was present and gave an overview of the need to approve the \$332,419.00 transfer. He explained this transfer was needed to cover COVID deficits. This is a result of changing guidelines on how the funding was to be used. What they originally thought that the ARPA funds could be used for, however the Federal Government was continuously changing their guidelines which resulted in the need to request this transfer. This is to cover deficits incurred in FY 20 and 21.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Burgo the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$332,419.00 from HEALTH, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$285,000.00 and MIS, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$47,419.00 to GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED, OTHER FINANCING USES. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$200,000.00 from SOLICITOR, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$100,000.00; CFO, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$60,000.00; PURCHASING, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$25,000.00 and ASSESSORS, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$15,000.00 to GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED, CHARGES & SERVICES (Ref'd 06/09/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Pereira. (5, 5a)

Michael Gagne, Interim Chief Financial Officer gave an overview of the need for this transfer. The city incurred legal expenses as it related to city business. This included lawsuits that were before the city and includes a number of defense costs that needed to be paid. One specific case exceeds \$100,000.

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Dunn, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$200,000.00 from SOLICITOR, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$100,000.00; CFO, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$60,000.00; PURCHASING, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$25,000.00 and ASSESSORS, SALARIES & WAGES in the amount of \$15,000.00 to GENERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED, CHARGES & SERVICES. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell, to City Council, submitting AN ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$8,000.00 from CFO, SALARIES & WAGES, to MAYOR, SALARIES & WAGES (Ref'd 06/09/2022) was received and placed on file by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Pereira. (6, 6a)

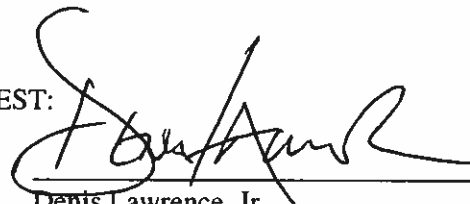
Michael Gagne, Interim Chief Financial Officer, gave an overview of the need for the \$8,000 transfer request. Changes in positions in the Mayor's Office resulted in the need to payout Jonathan Carvalho, his vacation and sick time because of his leaving the administration.

On motion by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council ADOPTION of the ORDER for the TRANSFER of \$8,000.00 from CFO, SALARIES & WAGES to MAYOR, SALARIES & WAGES. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Pereira made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Burgo.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees