



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
DATE: JUNE 14, 2023
TIME: 7:01 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, CHAIRMAN; IAN ABREU; (7:02) DEREK BAPTISTE; NAOMI CARNEY; BRIAN GOMES (7:05); SCOTT LIMA; LINDA MORAD; SHAWN OLIVER (7:06); RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS SHANE BURGO; MARIA GIESTA

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Councillor Markey called the Finance Committee meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications into the record from Councillors Burgo and Giesta explaining their absences. The Communications were received and placed on file by Councillor Baptiste and seconded by Councillor Lima. This motion passed on a voice vote. The Clerk also announced that he received a message from Councillor Oliver stating that he expected to be late for the meeting.

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On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To take up agenda items #1, #2, and #3 together without objection, to waive the reading and refer to the full City Council for "No Further Action". This motion passed on a voice vote. The items are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Atty. Eric C. Cohen, Executive Director of the New Bedford Retirement Board, to the City Council, advising that on March 24, 2023, the Board voted to grant a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) allowance of 3% to retirees, effective July 1, 2023. (Copy all Councillors via email March 27, 2023.) (Ref'd 04/13/2023) (Matter ID #0700) (1)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Atty. Eric C. Cohen, Executive Director of the New Bedford Retirement Board, to the City Council, advising that the Retirement Board intends to discuss at their April 27th meeting, a one-time 2% additional Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees of the system retroactive to the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022. (Copy all Councillors via email March 27, 2023.) (Ref'd 04/13/2023) (Matter ID #0701) (2)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Council President Morad, submitting a letter from Atty. Eric C. Cohen, Executive Director of the New Bedford Retirement Board, regarding the New Bedford Contributory Retirement Board's vote to approve an additional two percent (2%) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) retroactive to the beginning of Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022) at a special meeting held on April 27, 2023. (To be Referred to the Committee on Finance.) (Ref'd 05/11/2023) (Matter ID #0842) (3)

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Mayor Mitchell to City Council, submitting a LOAN ORDER, appropriating \$7,850,000.00 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 roads and infrastructure (FY2023-2027 Capital Improvement Program) (Ref'd 04/27/2023) (Matter ID #0781) and a LOAN ORDER, (Ref'd 04/27/2023) (Matter ID #0782) were received and placed on file by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Baptiste. This motion passed on a voice vote. (4, 4a)

Councillor Morad was recognized and asked if it was the Chair's intent to go through each item individually, and was told that it was. Councillor Morad asked if the Chief of Police was present to discuss the Police Department's request. He was not.

The Chair moved to the second proposal and Jennifer Viera, Director of the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management, was recognized.

The Committee meeting was then disrupted by a member of the public who was carrying a sign, positioning himself behind the speaker at the podium, distracting the speaker and the Committee. This person proceeded to interrupt the Chair, speaking out of turn and refusing to move. The Chair was forced to call a recess and the Police were notified.

The Chair readjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Councillor Morad was recognized by the Chair, who asked Interim CFO Michael Gagne if the item before the Committee could be heard at a future meeting. Mr. Gagne replied in the affirmative.

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Councillor Morad made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Carney. This motion passed on a voice vote.

This meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of the Committees