



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON CITY PROPERTY
DATE: JUNE 13, 2023
TIME: 6:32 P.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS MARIA GIESTA, CHAIRPERSON; DEREK BAPTISTE (6:35); SHANE BURGO; SCOTT LIMA; WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY; LINDA MORAD; SHAWN OLIVER; RYAN PEREIRA

ABSENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU; NAOMI CARNEY; BRIAN GOMES

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Councillor Giesta called the Committee on City Property Meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk read Communications into the record from Councillors Abreu, Carney and Gomes explaining their absences. The Communications were Received and Placed on File by Councillor Burgo and seconded by Councillor Baptiste. 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 a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the sale of the Airport's vacant lot on the east side of Mt. Pleasant Street (Assessor's Map #123-081) (Ref'd 07/21/2022) (11/09/2022 – Remain in Committee) (03/14/2023 – tabled) and a REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) for the sale of the Airport's vacant lot on the east side of Mt. Pleasant Street (Assessor's Map #123-081) (Ref'd 07/21/2022) (11/09/2022 – VOTE: Send a communication to all City departments inquiring if the space is needed for municipal purposes; Remain in Committee) (11/10/2022 – memo sent to all departments inquiring if the space was needed for municipal purposes; no responses were received that indicated there was a need for this space) (03/14/2023 – tabled) were removed from the table by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Burgo. This motion passed on a voice vote. (1, 1a)

The Chair recognized City Solicitor Eric Jaikes, who spoke on behalf of the Administration's request for permission from the City Council to sell the Airport's vacant lot on the East Side of Mt. Pleasant Street (Assessors Map #123-081). Councillor Morad asked Solicitor Jaikes if the sale was being conducted in accordance with the law and was told it was. She asked if the land appraisal was done by a reputable commercial appraiser and was told that it had been.

The Chair recognized Scot Servis, Airport Manager. Councillor Markey asked Mr. Servis for an overview of the property to be sold. Mr. Servis explained that it was a small parcel of land, 3.29 acres on the east side of Mt. Pleasant Street, near the Babbit Steam building. It is a small lot that cannot be built on and the Airport believes it will likely be sold to an abutting property owner. He went on to explain that the property was originally used as a Remote Transmitter System site, which is used to track airplanes. This is an older system and is no longer utilized by the Airport.

Councillor Pereira asked Legal Counsel David Gerwatowski to confirm the next steps for the Committee. Attorney Gerwatowski stated that the City had already reached out to its departments to see if there was a municipal use for the property and had been informed there were none. The Committee could now grant permission for the sale of the property and begin the RFP process. When the RFP process was complete, the Airport could then approach the Committee on City Property to seek permission to sell the property.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: That the property located on the east side of Mt. Pleasant Street (Assessors Map Plot #123-081) is not needed for municipal purposes. This motion passed on a roll call vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To authorize the City to offer the east side of Mt. Pleasant Street (Assessors Map #123-081) for sale. This motion passed on a roll call vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To authorize the City's Purchasing Department, in close consultation with the Committee Chair, to proceed with issuing the Request for Proposals (RFP) in accordance with Chapter 30B, Section 16 of the General Laws, and in accordance with Section 2-65 of the City Code; and that all bids received be submitted to the Committee on City Property with any written recommendations for selection that the Administration may choose to make to the Committee; and further, that the RFP be substantially similar to the Draft RFP that has been received by this Committee relative to this property. This motion passed on a roll call vote of Yeas 8, Nays 0.

On Motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Burgo, the Committee VOTED: To table the matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Councillor Burgo made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Baptiste. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence, Jr.
Clerk of Committees