



## ***Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council***

*Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair  
Councilor Maureen T. Carney  
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge  
Councilor James Nash*

**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street  
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building  
Northampton, MA**

Meeting Date: March 2, 2017

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting will take place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:05 pm.

- 1. Meeting Called To Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approve Minutes Of February 16, 2017 Meeting**

Documents:

[02-16-2017\\_finance\\_minutes.pdf](#)

#### **4. Financial Orders**

- A. 17.258 To Appropriate \$1,668,582 For Paying Costs Of Roof Replacement At Bridge Street School**

Documents:

[17.258\\_bridge\\_street\\_roof\\_repair.pdf](#)

- B. 17.259 A Financial Order To Appropriate \$1,775,294 For Paying Costs Of Roof Replacement At Leeds Elementary School**

Documents:

[17.259\\_order\\_leeds\\_roof\\_repair.pdf](#)

- C. 17.260 An Order Authorizing Joint Operation Of Public Activities Agreement To Implement "Healthy Hampshire Massachusetts In Motion/1422" Grant**

Documents:

[17.260\\_mass\\_in\\_motion-1422\\_grant\\_intermunicipal\\_agreement.pdf](#)

#### **5. Summary Of Scanlon Audit**

**6. Planning For C.I.P.**

**7. New Business**

*-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

**8. Adjourn**

*Prepared by:*

*P. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council*

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## **Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council**

*Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair  
Councilor Maureen T. Carney  
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge  
Councilor James Nash*

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: February 16, 2017

The meeting is scheduled to take place as announced during the City Council meeting which is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm  
City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street  
Northampton, MA

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** At 7:53 pm Councilor Carney called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** On a roll call the following committee members were present: Councilors Carney, Nash, and LaBarge. Councilor Murphy was absent. Councilor Carney chaired the meeting.

Also present from the City Council were Councilors Dwight, O'Donnell, Sciarra, Bidwell, and Klein.

3. **Approve Minutes of February 2, 2017 meeting:** Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

#### **4. Financial Orders**

##### **A. 17.253 An Order to authorize intermunicipal agreement with PVPC**

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

Mayor Narkewicz explained that the committee is being asked to approve a municipal agreement. Northampton, along with a number of other municipalities in the PVPC Connecticut River service area, want to work together on a project to develop some of the training, infrastructure and mapping required to comply with the new stormwater permit. PVPC will be the lead agency and there is a working group with representatives from different communities. Some of the mapping compliance software will be developed along with training materials. The Mayor indicates that this is a good example of how the Planning organization can serve as a regional model. In order to enter into the agreement, the City Council must provide authorization.

Councilor Dwight wondered if the communities affected were ones in the entire watershed or only those along the Connecticut River. Mayor Narkewicz indicated that it is only those along the Connecticut River because the permit applies to those that discharge into the river. In order to do those discharges, all of the city's stormwater and wastewater permits have to be in compliance.

Councilor O'Donnell noted that this is a statewide requirement. He wondered whether there was a statewide effort to provide joint preparation for the requirement. The Mayor notes that the permit requirement comes directly from the EPA.

Mayor Narkewicz requests two readings tonight; Northampton joined the intermunicipal effort late in the game but wants to move forward as a participant.

**B. 17.254 An Order to authorize that premiums received upon sale of bonds used to pay project costs shall reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed by any such premium so applied**

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

Mayor Narkewicz indicated that any time the City goes out to bond, language is provided by Bond Counsel which is approved as part of the bond authorization. This is a requirement before bonds can be issued. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the state passed a Municipal Modernization Act and one of the changes was the treatment of premiums related to bond sales. Northampton had already authorized bonds and had not issued them for the Pulaski Park and the River Road retaining wall projects. The solution, according to the DOR, is to amend the loan authorization that was voted before the sale. Going forward, language from Bond Counsel will reflect the new premium provision that is included in the Municipal Modernization Act.

**C. 17.255 An Order to authorize payment of a previous year bill for the Board of Health**

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

Councilor Carney noted a scrivener's error in the document; "Overdoes" should be "Overdose". The Administrative Assistant will make the correction before the order is fully approve with two readings by the City Council.

Mayor Narkewicz indicated that the bill was for a training program as part of the on-going opioid task force. The bill was not submitted in time to be paid during the fiscal year in which it was incurred; therefore City Council is required to authorize payment. It will be paid for using the opioid task force grant money that is administered by the City.

When asked by Councilor LaBarge, Mayor Narkewicz indicated that the task force is going well. They are approaching their two year anniversary. An event is planned to talk about some of the things that they have been doing. They have been working with other agencies and communities to provide naran training, among other things. The task force has social media presence, including a website. In a limited capacity they have opened a recovery center which is based on the model that has been successful in Franklin County.

**D. 17.256 An Order to authorize the appropriation of funds to perform job classification and compensation study**

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

Mayor Narkewicz indicated that this order was discussed in Executive Session earlier. He has nothing to add at this time.

### **E. 17.257 An Order to Transfer Funds for Salaries**

Councilor Nash moved to return the order back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

The Mayor explained that these funds have already been appropriated; however, he is asking that they now be transferred as discussed in Executive Session.

### **5. 17.244 An Ordinance regarding Fair Minimum Wage**

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the ordinance back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

Councilor O'Donnell explained that the federal minimum wage is set at \$7.25 per hour; however, the state of Massachusetts has set its own minimum wage at \$11.00 per hour. M.G.L. c. 151 is the section in which the state's minimum wage is created; it spells out that a wage less than \$11.00 is "oppressive and unreasonable". He points out that the statute does not apply to municipal employees. This was decided by the Attorney General in 2002 who wrote an opinion citing another statute in the law that sets forth the authority of cities and towns to set rules, including a maximum and minimum wage. In Northampton, as a practical matter, the current and previous mayors have ensured that city employees do get paid a minimum wage. The ordinance will close a loophole and codify Northampton's practice. The ordinance would not apply to existing collective bargaining agreements or to elected officials. Councilor O'Donnell explained that the city does not have the authority to set minimum wage requirements for employees controlled by the School Committee.

Councilor O'Donnell shared that the last budget message written by the Superintendent of Schools for Northampton indicated that NPS now pays all employees the state minimum wage. While the City Council cannot set rules for the School Committee, the Council can ask that the information be provided before the school's budget is voted on.

Councilor Dwight asked whether the School Committee has codified paying minimum wage to school employees; Mayor Narkewicz indicated that they had not.

### **6. Committee Study Request - Referred by City Council on 1/19/2017**

Councilor Carney described the Committee Study Request.

Councilor Nash indicated that the turnout at the Democratic Caucus at JFK Middle School on February 15<sup>th</sup> was "amazing". Over 30 people attended the Ward 3 caucus. Councilor Nash describes them as enthusiastic, passionate and looking for ways to be involved. People are concerned about what is going on at the federal level and how it will play out here at the local level. The budget reflects the values of the community and Councilor Nash feels that people would be interested in hearing how Northampton's budget is protecting those values. Councilor Nash feels that people will come to budget presentations and be involved in the discussion concerning those values. Councilor Nash called upon the Mayor to put together a presentation looking at how things like grants awarded to Northampton could be affected. Councilor Nash understands that the budget is fairly well protected; however, people need to hear and see it.

Councilor LaBarge notes that there has been a serious problem getting people to attend the budget hearings. She suggests having a budget hearing at JFK Middle School or Northampton High School to accommodate the Leeds and Florence areas. She has heard complaints about parking in the downtown area. She feels that the Council needs to reach out and do the presentations in a transparent manner.

She has also heard concerns that the City is constantly overspending. She feels it is important to get the information out there so that people are aware what is going on.

Councilor Dwight notes that the level of engagement about the budget is dictated by a variety of things. There was more interest when an override was looming and triggered a sense of urgency. When budget cuts are applied, then there are a number of conversations that take place. When talks of layoffs take place, then people start to participate. Councilor Dwight wondered what structural things could be done to make the presentations more available. The Committee on Finance Chair suggested that the meetings be re-structured. This is the public's opportunity to express their opinion, to ask questions, and to see if the budget document appears to align with what the city's priorities should be.

Councilor Bidwell had a similar experience to Councilor Nash when he attended the Democratic Caucus at Smith Vocational High School for Ward 2. He thinks that there must have been 45 enthusiastic people that attended the event. One person suggested that what was needed were larger Chambers so that more people could attend. Councilor Bidwell feels that Councilor Nash is on the right track: there needs to be some kind of "hook" that will get people to participate in budget discussions. He feels that the way that meetings are publicized could generate interest. A few questions come to mind, including:

- What is the impact on the city's budget regarding the sanctuary city status?
- What is the impact to the school system of declining state aid?
- What do the bond rating agencies think about Northampton's fiscal management?
- What is the impact of unfunded mandates from state and/or federal governments?
- What does this budget say about the likelihood of a future override?

Councilor O'Donnell agrees with Councilor Nash and Bidwell. He feels that the Council needs to do a better job explaining what is going on with the process, including what the Council can and cannot do. He also feels that the five-year capital program should be included. People are interested in understanding the City's investment in paving projects; what the planned infrastructure improvements that are planned are, etc. Councilor O'Donnell also feels that there are some basic notification practices that can be adopted, such as publicizing the meetings on social media, or asking ward councilors to actively recruit people to come. Perhaps people could pose questions in advance of the meeting.

Councilor Sciarra wondered about the process of receiving the committee study request. She wondered if the committee needed to accept the request before acting on it. Councilor Carney shared that she is a last minute stand-in for the committee's Chair and she wasn't sure it was the intention of the Chair to have a discussion in his absence. Councilor Carney wondered if the committee wanted to postpone further discussion until the Chair is able to participate.

Councilor LaBarge moved to postpone the discussion; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

## 7. **New Business: None**

8. **Adjourn:** At 8:36 pm Councilor LaBarge moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Nash seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Murphy).

*Prepared by:*

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**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council,*

March 2, 2017

Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

**17.258**

**An Order**

**To appropriate \$1,668,582 for paying costs of roof replacement at Bridge Street School**

*Ordered, that*

That the City appropriate the amount of One million, six hundred sixty-eight thousand five hundred and eighty-two (\$1,668,582) Dollars, in addition to the \$61,050 previously appropriated under various votes of this Council for feasibility study costs, for the purpose of paying costs of roof replacement at the Bridge Street Elementary School at 2 Parsons Street, Northampton, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Committee. To meet this appropriation (i) \$26,681 shall be transferred from the Bridge Street School Parapet project account ( 3000 350904-11 ) and (ii) the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow \$1,641,901 under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
MASSACHUSETTS

*In City Council,*

March 2, 2017

Upon the recommendation of the Mayor

**17.259**

**An Order**

**To appropriate \$1,775,294 for paying costs of roof replacement at Leeds Elementary School**

*Ordered, that*

That the City appropriate the amount of One million, seven hundred and seventy-five thousand two hundred and ninety four (\$1,775,294) Dollars, in addition to the \$60,714 previously appropriated under various votes of this Council for feasibility study costs, for the purpose of paying costs of roof replacement at the Leeds Elementary School at 20 Florence Street, Leeds, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Committee. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow \$1,775,294 under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the City incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City; and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed repair project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City and the MSBA. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.



**City of Northampton**  
MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council*

March 2, 2017

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Upon recommendation of the Mayor

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**17.260**

**An Order**

**Authorizing joint operation of public activities agreement to implement “Healthy Hampshire Massachusetts in Motion/1422” grant**

*Ordered, that*

Whereas MGL C.40 s. 4A allows for joint operation of public activities among governmental units, and

Whereas, MGL c. 40, s. 4A requires that such inter-governmental agreements be approved, in a city, by the City Council and the Mayor, and;

Whereas the City of Northampton provides services to and shares services with other municipalities;

That the City, acting as the lead community thru the Planning and Sustainability Department, participate in a regional effort to reduce the risk of diabetes, strokes and heart disease by improving our social and built environments to enable healthier living and in doing so agrees to work cooperatively with municipalities in the region to implement the “Healthy Hampshire Massachusetts in Motion/1422” grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, under a federal Center for Disease Control funding program.