



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

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra  
Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.  
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge  
Councilor John Thorpe*

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

Meeting Date: January 16, 2020

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. Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**

**A. Minutes Of December 19, 2019**

Documents:

[12-19-2019\\_finance committee minutes.pdf](#)

**4. Second Quarter Financial Report**

Presentation by Finance Director Susan Wright

**5. Financial Orders**

**A. 20.007 An Order To Appropriate CPA Funds For Historic Preservation Of Parsons House And Shepherd Barn**

Documents:

[20.007 an order to appropriate cpa funds for historic preservation of parsons house and shepherd barn.pdf](#)

**B. 20.008 An Order To Appropriate CPA Funds To Purchase 105 Acres At Former Pine Grove Golf Course**

Documents:

[20.008 an order to appropriate cpa funds to purchase 105 acres in rocky hill greenway.pdf](#)

**C. 20.009 An Order To Appropriate CPA Funds For Affordable Home On Glendale Road**

Documents:

20.009 an order to appropriate cpa funds for affordable home on glendale road.pdf

**D. 20.010 An Order To Appropriate CPA Funds To Community Builders For North Commons Project**

Documents:

20.010 an order to appropriate cpa funds to community builders for north commons project.pdf

**E. 20.011 An Order To Appropriate CPA Funds To NHA For Hampshire Heights Playground**

Documents:

20.011 an order to appropriate cpa funds to nha for hampshire heights playground.pdf

**6. New Business**

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

**7. Adjourn**

**Contact:** *G-L Sciarra*@[glsciarra@northamptonma.gov](mailto:glsciarra@northamptonma.gov)  
*or 413-570-3133*



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

*Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair  
Councilor Maureen T. Carney  
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge  
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra*

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

Meeting Date: December 19, 2019

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 8:35 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy (Chair), Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge and Gina-Louise Sciarra. Also present from the City Council were Dennis Bidwell, William H. Dwight, Alisa Klein, Jim Nash and Ryan O'Donnell.
3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
  - A. **Minutes of December 5, 2019**

Councilor Carney moved to approve the minutes of December 5, 2019. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
  - A. **19.177 An Order To Execute Contract Amendment Relative To The FY2020 Audit**

Councilor Murphy read the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Carney seconded.

The City Council has to award a contract for an independent audit every year by September, Councilor O'Donnell reminded. That was done, and he now has a contract before him to effectuate that award. The original order awarding the contract did not have a dollar amount. Although the contract was awarded properly and both the city solicitor and finance director inform him that he could just go ahead and sign it, he has been his practice not to do so without express authorization from the full City Council, he explained.

The purpose of this is merely to get the council on record as saying it is okay to go ahead and execute the contract, he elaborated. After talking to the solicitor today, he has one amendment; he would ask someone

City Council Committee on Finance Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2019

on Finance to amend the order so that it authorizes the City Council President to sign on behalf of the full City Council rather than authorizing all members to sign.

Councilor Carney so moved. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by voice vote

Councilor Murphy called the original motion to a vote, and it passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

**B. 19.189 An Order To Accept Gift Of Thermograph Imager From MIIA**

Councilor Murphy read the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Carney seconded.

This was a safety grant the city applied for through the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA), the city's liability insurance provider, Mayor Narkewicz advised. They had expected it to be a cash grant to purchase a thermograph imager for facilities staff but MIIA changed the nature of the grant to actually give the city the thermograph imager itself. Because it is a gift of real property, it needs to be accepted by the City Council.

Councilor LaBarge asked if this was the same as the thermal imager donated to the city after the tragic Worcester warehouse fire. Mayor Narkewicz said it was a little different since it is used by contractors to detect conditions like heat loss or moisture rather than fire.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

**C. 19.190 An Order To Authorize Five-Year Agreement For CardConnect Services At Senior Center**

Councilor Murphy read the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor Carney seconded.

'My Senior Center' is the proprietary software the Senior Center has had for many years, Mayor Narkewicz reminded. It allows patrons to check in and register for programs and allows the department to track the number of patrons visiting the center and accessing its services. Senior Services staff would now like to be able to offer people the ability to pay with a credit card. CardConnect Services is an add-on software and hardware to 'My Senior Center,' he explained. Like many software contracts, the minimum contract term is five years. City Council approval is required to sign contracts for more than three years.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote

**5. New Business**

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

None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor LaBarge moved to adjourn. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Contact: D. Murphy @ [david.murphy8@comcast.net](mailto:david.murphy8@comcast.net)  
or 413-586-5461

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council, January 16, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

**20.007 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Historic Preservation of Parsons House and Shepherd Barn**

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, Historic Northampton, Inc. submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for continued work to restore and reopen the Shepherd barn and Parsons House, rebuild the Shepherd porch, and purchase an art rack for safe storage and display of artifacts;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be used to secure an important historic resource that is valued by the community and the region, on which the City holds a permanent preservation restriction;

WHEREAS, the project has a great deal of community support and will further work done at Historic Northampton over the past ten years, will help preserve the City's sense of place, and includes contribution of extensive volunteer labor and materials;

WHEREAS, all work will be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties;

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019 the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$198,834 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$198,834 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to Historic Northampton, Inc. for the Assessment and Preservation Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$198,834 is appropriated from the CPA Historic Preservation Reserve (account #2344930-359932).

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council, January 16, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

## 20.008 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to Purchase 105 Acres in Rocky Hill Greenway

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, The Northampton Conservation Commission and Office of Planning & Sustainability submitted a Community Preservation Act application for purchase of 105 acres within the Rocky Hill Greenway at the former Pine Grove Golf Course;

WHEREAS, The parcel includes more than half a mile of Nashawannuck Brook riparian area, is part of a wildlife corridor, abuts existing protected areas in the Rocky Hill Greenway, and presents a myriad of opportunities for climate change adaptation, natural communities restoration, and recreation;

WHEREAS, the project meets the goals of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, Northampton Community Preservation Plan, and Open Space, Recreation and Multi-use Trail Plan to protect open space, provide for passive recreation, and protect heritage landscapes;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will provide a match for a state Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity grant;

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$250,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

### ***Ordered, that***

That \$250,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Northampton Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Sustainability for the Nashawannuck Riparian Restoration Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$172,000 is appropriated from the CPA Open Space Reserve (account #2344930-359931), and \$78,000 is appropriated from the CPA Undesignated Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council, January 16, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

## 20.009 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Affordable Home on Glendale Road

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for creation of an affordable single-family home on Glendale Road;

WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity has an excellent record of creating housing throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond, and has already created three affordable units on Glendale Road;

WHEREAS, the project has wide community support, leverages funding from many other sources, and utilizes volunteer labor;

WHEREAS, the home will be restricted to individuals and families earning 60% of area median income or below;

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$30,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$30,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity for the Glendale Road Small Home Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$30,000 is appropriated from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve (account #2344930-359933).

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council, January 16, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

20.010 An Order  
to Appropriate CPA Funds to Community Builders for North Commons Project

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, The Community Builders submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for creation of affordable housing units at the North Commons project;

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Village Hill Apartments, the project will create approximately 65 units of mixed income rental housing at Village Hill on two parcels, and 35 of these will be restricted to households and individuals earning 60% of area median income or below;

WHEREAS, playgrounds and approximately 30 acres of open space are part of the project and will be open and available for use by the public;

WHEREAS, The Community Builders has an excellent record of providing affordable housing in Northampton and beyond;

WHEREAS, the project will leverage funds from a variety of other sources and has wide community support;

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee voted unanimously to recommend that \$250,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$250,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to The Community Builders for the North Commons project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$142,000 is appropriated from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve (account #2344930-359933), and \$108,000 is appropriated from the CPA Undesignated Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

# City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

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*In City Council, January 16, 2020*

*Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee*

## 20.011 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds to NHA for Hampshire Heights Playground

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, the Northampton Housing Authority submitted an application for Community Preservation Act funding for playground creation at Hampshire Heights;

WHEREAS, the Hampshire Heights development has never had a dedicated playground space, and the majority of its residents are youth and children for whom access to other playgrounds is limited;

WHEREAS, the project has wide support, including Hampshire Heights residents, the Housing Partnership, and Healthy Hampshire, and will contribute to positive health status of residents and enhance quality of life;

WHEREAS, CPA funds will be leveraged by additional grant funding and donated labor and services;

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend that \$200,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

That \$200,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Northampton Housing Authority for the Hampshire Heights Playground Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$200,000 is appropriated from the CPA Undesignated Reserve (account #2344930-359930)