



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: February 21, 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 9:08 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy, Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge & Gina-Louise Sciarra. Also present from the City Council were Bill Dwight, Jim Nash, Ryan O'Donnell, Dennis Bidwell, and Alisa Klein.
3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
 - A. **Minutes of February 7, 2019**

Councilor Carney moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2019. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
 - A. **19.002 An Order To Purchase, Declare Surplus And Donate Land On Easthampton Road To Massachusetts Audubon Society For Conservation Purposes**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

The order and map are pretty self-explanatory, Mayor Narkewicz presented. This is a key parcel Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary would like to see added to its conservation lands. The city has a homeowner willing to sell it to them for \$1.

In response to a question from Councilor Murphy, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed that the land is presently in tax title. It is very low-value land and not developable, he added.

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The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with 4 Yes, 0 No.

B. 19.004 An Order To Reprogram Memorial Hall Repairs Surplus To Senior Center Repairs

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

The order involves tailings from the Memorial Hall project, Mayor Narkewicz explained. City Services wants to address some issues with the siding and trim on the Senior Center. There have been some signs of rot and water-related damage down near the base of the building.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

C. 19.005 An Order For FY2019 Budget Transfers

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

The transfers are to address some end-of-year budget issues, Mayor Narkewicz reported. On the Fire/Rescue side, the department had an unanticipated repair to the ladder truck and a blown turbo on Engine One which caused the normal maintenance budget to be exceeded. On the public safety side, dispatchers had an unexpected repair to the Keltron monitoring system. The department also had some software licensing fees and there was some initial miscommunication about which budget these needed to reside in. With regard to modest transfers for Travel and Staff Development, unfortunately, the Western Massachusetts training center closed, so the city has had to send dispatchers further east for training, raising their travel expenses.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

D. 19.007 An Order For FY2019 Budget Transfers

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order. These were the transfers spoken of in Executive Session, he noted. The order calls for the transfer of \$123,422 from Salary Reserve to various departmental budgets.

Councilor LaBarge moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Sciarra seconded.

There being no discussion, Councilor Murphy called the motion to a vote, and it 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 other business, Councilor Carney moved to adjourn. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

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