



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

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

On line Zoom Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Date: March 19, 2020

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 7:51 p.m. Councilor Sciarra called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members Gina-Louise Sciarra (Chair), Marianne LaBarge (Vice-Chair), Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. and John Thorpe. Also present from the City Council were William H. Dwight, Karen Foster, Alex Jarrett and Rachel Maiore. Councilor Jim Nash was absent.
3. **Approval of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
 - A. **Minutes of March 5, 2020**

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2020. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
 - A. **20.033 An Order for FY2020 Budget Transfers**

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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

As they come to the end of the fiscal year they end up doing some of these budgetary transfers, Ms. Wright explained. Councilors will see similar orders from now until the end of June with quite a few expected related to the COVID-19 emergency. The transfer to the City Council budget is mostly due to more than the usual number of councilors attending the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) annual meeting since there are so many new councilors. The two transfers into the City Clerk's budget are for ballot printing and ordinance updates. She suspects more transfers into the City Clerk's budget will be needed once payroll for the recent election is processed.

In response to a question from Councilor LaBarge, Ms. Wright confirmed that the \$7,000 for ballot printing is for ballots for the special municipal election.

City Council Committee on Finance Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2020

Councilor LaBarge asked if additional election workers were needed for the municipal election and, if so, how the city is covering that expense.

Payroll hasn't been completed for that election, so she doesn't yet know if more money will need to be transferred into the personnel budget, Ms. Wright said. The City Clerk hasn't notified her of any other deficits.

Councilor LaBarge asked for additional details about the code updates.

It is to update the existing code with ordinance changes brought forward this fiscal year but she doesn't have other specifics, Ms. Wright said.

Mayor Narkewicz explained for the benefit of the public that the city has a vendor that updates its code of ordinances.

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

B. 20.034 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to Public Safety Wireless Project

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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

The IT Department has identified a fairly urgent project to update the wireless system in the public safety buildings, Ms. Wright explained. The project is moving forward before the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) because it needs to be addressed right away.

Councilor Jarrett noted the date is incorrect and needs to be corrected (should be 2020 instead of 2019). The correction was duly noted.

There being no further questions, the motion passed unanimously 4 Yes, 0 No 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 Thorpe seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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