



## **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: April 5, 2018

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 8:03 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
- 2. Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy, Marianne LaBarge & Gina-Louise Sciarra. Councilor Maureen Carney was absent. Also present from the City Council were William H. Dwight, Jim Nash, Ryan R. O'Donnell, Dennis Bidwell, & Alisa Klein.

### **3. Financial Orders**

- A. 18.074 Order To Reprogram Funds To Purchase Pay To Park Kiosks  
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Parking administrators requested additional kiosks as part of the capital plan, Mayor Narkewicz reminded. City officials now would like to purchase additional kiosks to make sure full coverage is available in the affected areas. Administrators are looking at replacing kiosks on lower Main Street in the area of the Silverscape block and the Florence Savings Bank block. They originally thought they would have two - one on each side - but decided they needed to capture the other side of the bridge as well for even better coverage. There is money left over from other parking-related projects, so they would like to transfer it to this use. They are also looking to add another kiosk on Crafts Avenue. The plan has been over time to slowly replace meters with kiosks so the parking system has a unified technology in the downtown business district.

Councilor Sciarra asked if there is a best practice as far as the number of parking spaces per kiosk and the distance between kiosks.

The older 'Pay and Display' kiosks used to be a shorter distance apart because of the necessity for users to return to their cars with the ticket. This is no longer necessary with newer kiosks where users just enter their license plate number and leave from the kiosk, Mayor Narkewicz pointed out.

Councilor Sciarra moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried 3:0 by voice vote.

**B. 18.075 Order To Reprogram Forbes Tree And Fire Alarm Account Funds To Replace Tractor**  
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

Replacement of the 2003 John Deere Tractor was a request in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which was slated to be fulfilled after July 1<sup>st</sup>. The tractor has been having maintenance issues, so the project has been brought forward earlier prior to the start of the mowing season, Mayor Narkewicz explained.

In response to a question from Councilor Klein about why the DPW doesn't maintain the library grounds, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed that there is a well-defined agreement with Forbes Library regarding the town and library's scope of responsibility for maintenance of the building and grounds. The property is actually owned by the library and the library has its own maintenance staff, he clarified. The point is well-taken but, under the current arrangement, this is the way Forbes wants to proceed.

The motion carried 3 Yes, 0 No with one absence (Councilor Carney.)

**C. 18.076 Order To Authorize Payment Of Prior Year Bill**  
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor Sciarra moved to forward the order with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3:0 with one absence (Councilor Carney).

**D. 18.077 Order To Rescind Remaining Borrowing Authority For River Road Retaining Wall Project**  
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order

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

The city initially borrowed a full \$2 million, twenty-two thousand dollars for the River Road project but received a grant for some of the cost so city officials now want to rescind the remaining borrowing authority, Mayor Narkewicz explained.

Councilor Murphy called the motion to return the order with a positive recommendation to a vote, and it passed on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, one absent (Councilor Carney).

**E. 18.079 Order To Appropriate \$7,500 From Free Cash For UPS At Florence Fire Station**  
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

The fire station basically had an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) system that died, Mayor Narkewicz advised. Because it is near the end of the fiscal year, Fire Department officials do not have enough money in the budget to purchase a new UPS. He is requesting two readings because it is important to have a backup system in place as soon as possible.

**4. New Business**

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

**5. Approve Minutes of March 1, 2018 and March 15, 2018 Meeting:** Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2018 and March 15, 2018. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No.

**6. Adjourn:** At 8:18 p.m. Councilor LaBarge moved to adjourn; Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Carney).

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