



## **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: July 11, 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 8:03 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 June 20, 2019**

Councilor Carney moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2019. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
  - A. **19.103 An Order To Transfer Funds From FY2019 Unused Earned Leave To Compensated Absences Reserve Fund**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

The city has been doing this annually since 2014 when the state allowed the creation of this reserve fund, Mayor Narkewicz explained. Before they close out the books they transfer unused earned leave into this account. It allows them to deal with contract settlements and fluctuations when people retire.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

- B. **19.104 An Order To Appropriate FY2020 Cash Capital Funds For Various Capital Projects**

Councilor Murphy reviewed the capital projects to be funded.

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

As part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) every year, one of the funding sources is what's called 'cash capital,' Mayor Narkewicz reminded. Administrators are asking the City Council to appropriate these funds to projects that were approved as part of the CIP. They are requesting two readings. Each one of the named projects is contained in the CIP with descriptions.

Councilor LaBarge asked about the Senior Center Space Utilization Study.

Programmatic needs and some of the space needs are ever changing, Mayor Narkewicz said. The Senior Center has now been open for 10 years and seniors have an increased need for programming. One of the things Ms. Westburg wants to do is have an architect come in and take a look at the space. As an example, when it was first built, the building had a computer room. Now most people don't use desk top computers so they are converting that room to another use.

Also, as new people retire, interests may change; i.e. - retirees may be not so much interested in making dresses for dolls. The study is intended to have someone take a look to see if some changes need to be made.

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

**C. 19.108 An Order To Authorize FY2020 Intermunicipal Agreements**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

There are no new agreements; in a few cases, they are adding communities to existing contracts, Mayor Narkewicz presented. He cited the addition of Hadley and Easthampton to the Sealer of Weights and Measures agreement and the addition of entities to the Pioneer Valley Bike Share contract.

It is impressive to see all the contracts in one place because it shows the extent of collaboration with other communities and the fact that often Northampton is leading the collaboration. There is some really great work going on collaboratively between agencies, particularly in Western Massachusetts. It is something they are good at and proud of because they don't have the economies of scale that exist in the eastern part of the state. He mentioned the laserfiche project. It is always good to look at the annual things they are involved in, he suggested.

The agreement to allow use of a strand of the fiber optic network by Greenfield Community College (GCC) is for the nursing program at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, he confirmed.

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

**D. 19.109 An Order To Authorize Gift Fund Expenditure By Human Rights Commission**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

This came to him as a request from the chair of the Human Rights Commission, Mayor Narkewicz advised. Members don't have a formal budget but have been trying to step up some of their outreach and brochures. They requested that they be allotted a small budget, so he is requesting that they be allowed to use up to \$1,000 to carry out their mission over the next year.

Mayor Narkewicz confirmed that two readings are requested.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0.

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 Sciarra moved to adjourn. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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