



## **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 12, 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 7:37 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy, Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge and 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 June 7, 2018 And June 21, 2018**

Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of June 7, 2018 and June 21, 2018. Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.
4. **Financial Orders**
  - A. **18.130 An Order To Appropriate Money For Capital Projects From The FY2019 Cash Capital Account**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

As background, when they did the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), administrators laid out all the projects with the source of funding. A certain number are appropriations from Free Cash, a certain number from borrowing and some from cash capital, meaning they will be approved from the FY2019 operating budget. The listed projects are projects that are part of the CIP, he confirmed.

In response to questions about the animal control van, Mayor Narkewicz said it is presently a 2009 Toyota Sienna approaching 100,000 miles. They are going to keep this van as a back-up and purchase a new van. It is getting to the end of its useful life.

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

**B. 18.131 An Order To Reprogram Funds To Jackson Street School HVAC Repairs From Other NPS Projects**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded.

This project has been in the capital plan for over two years. When the bids came in, the cost was a little higher than projected so they are going to use remaining funds from completed projects.

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

**C. 18.132 An Order To Transfer \$105,147.24 From FY18 Unused Earned Leave To Compensated Absences Reserve Fund**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

This fund was established two or three years ago when state law changed allowing cities and towns to set it up, Mayor Narkewicz explained. They have to budget a certain amount every year.

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

**D. 18.133 An Order To Approve An Exemption For Josh Shanley Consulting Contract**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor Murphy noted that order had been withdrawn.

**E. 18.134 An Order To Authorize Funding For The Rocky Hill Greenway Multi-Use Trail**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

This is a fairly common order, Mayor Narkewicz presented. The city is going to apply for a state grant to fund the bike trail, so if the application is successful, borrowing will not be necessary. The City Council is asked to adopt this order to show the city's support for the project. They don't have any intention of borrowing or appropriating the money but this is to show the city's commitment. If the city gets the grant, they will come forward at the end of the year to rescind the borrowing.

Councilor LaBarge said she spoke with Planning Director Wayne Feiden before he left. 150 notices were sent to abutters regarding the project. They city saved a tremendous amount of land and they all supported that. This is what people were asking; to have multiple trails coming in. This is the right way to go because this is what the residents wanted, she confirmed.

Councilor Sciarra asked if the grant would cover the whole amount.

That's his understanding, Mayor Narkewicz responded. If there were additional costs, typically Mr. Feiden would do fundraising or apply for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

Councilor Bidwell asked if the project would proceed only if the grant comes through.

The city wouldn't borrow money to do it, Mayor Narkewicz said. If they didn't receive the grant they would try to pursue other avenues. The city has been fairly successful securing this grant each year. City officials would still want to pursue the project but not through bonding.

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

**F. 18.135 An Order For FY2018 End Of Year Budget Transfers**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded.

They have until July 15th to make final adjustments to the budget. Financial officers have some budgets they want to true up. In response to a question, he said street paving and markings is going from Ordinary Maintenance (OM) to Other than Ordinance Maintenance (OOM). These refer to capital-like projects that are so recurring that department heads actually build them into the budget.

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

**G. 18.136 An Order To Authorize Intermunicipal Agreement For Paramedic Intercept Services For Hadley**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Carney seconded.

Northampton has paramedic intercept agreements with multiple other towns, Mayor Narkewicz advised. This is a new agreement with Hadley. Hadley and Amherst had a parting of the ways on ambulance service. Amherst used to provide ambulance service for Hadley. This year there was a change and Hadley is now using a private provider. This is an agreement to provide intercept in cases where Hadley needs intercept at a paramedic level. The agreement is new because Hadley formerly had an agreement with Amherst, he explained.

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

5. **New Business**

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

None.

6. **Adjourn:** Councilor LaBarge moved to adjourn; Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

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