



## **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 24, 2018

Time: 4:00 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 4 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Councilors David Murphy, Marianne LaBarge and Gina-Louise Sciarra. Maureen T. Carney was excused.
3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**  
None
4. **Financial Orders**  
None
5. **New Business**

**A. Discussion of FY2019 Independent Audit**

The Northampton City Charter requires the City Council to award a contract for auditing services each year by September 15<sup>th</sup>, Councilor Murphy reminded. In 2015, the council awarded a three-year contract to Scanlon and Associates for fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018. The contract for the FY2018 audit has already been awarded, so the FY2019 audit is the subject of discussion.

Because of the short time frame and fact that there are only two City Council meetings before September 15<sup>th</sup>, it is not possible to draft and issue an RFP, allow time for response, interview respondents, reach a decision and hold two readings prior to the deadline, he pointed out. Mr. Scanlon has indicated willingness to extend the existing contract for another year at the same price as the FY2018 audit.

Councilor Murphy proposed that the Finance Committee recommend extending the existing contract for another year with the intention of commencing an RFP process for another multi-year contract in the spring. It makes sense to change auditors periodically 'to get new eyes on things,' he acknowledged.

Councilor LaBarge said she talked to the finance director, and she does not foresee a problem with extending Scanlon's contract at the same price. She was told the company has a record of excellent service. She does not see a problem with extending the contract.

Councilors recalled that the city went through a fairly extensive process three years ago, sending out Requests for Proposals (RFP's) to 12 auditing/accounting firms and interviewing four responsive applicants. He's not recommending repeating it now because he doesn't think they have time to do a fair process at this point, Councilor Murphy clarified. They probably want to make a note to themselves in the spring to do the whole process again for due diligence purposes, he suggested.

Councilor Sciarra moved to recommend to the full council that the city extend the contract with Scanlon to do the audit for one more year. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried 3:0.

**Adjourn:** Councilor Sciarra moved to adjourn; Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

*Contact: D. Murphy @ [david.murphy8@comcast.net](mailto:david.murphy8@comcast.net)  
or (413) 586-5461*