



## ***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: September 19, 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 7:09 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 September 5, 2019**  
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of September 5, 2019. Councilor Carney seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
  - A. **19.130 An Order To Increase Energy And Sustainability Revolving Fund Threshold From \$150,000 To \$250,000**  
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

The order is actually a request from Chris Mason, the city's energy officer, Mayor Narkewicz advised. Central Services will be doing some large energy projects. Councilors may have heard the good news that Northampton received a major green communities' grant of \$250,000, and the utility company will be contributing additional funds. The limit was originally set at \$150,000 but Mr. Mason said given the funds that will be going in and out for these projects he wanted to see if it could be raised to \$250,000. They will be adding the sale of some additional Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SREC's) to the fund as well. Mr. Mason works with the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission (NESC) to vet energy

City Council Committee on Finance Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2019

sustainability projects. Funds are directly derived from SREC's or Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) credits and then put back into projects.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

**B. 19.133 An Order For FY2020 Budget Transfers**

Councilor Murphy read the order.

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

The request is to reallocate some funds originally allocated to salaries in Human Resources (HR) to the OM line item for a MUNIS project, Mayor Narkewicz explained. A member of the HR staff recently left to become the HR director at Smith Vocational School upon the retirement of the director there. They have been thinking about how they want to reallocate resources within the office. One of the top priorities of the finance director and HR director is to work on some updates and workplace efficiencies within the MUNIS software. The idea is to allocate some additional funds to have Randy take on some of these projects. MUNIS will be moving to a new dashboard system and adding some new features that will allow users to be more efficient. The HR director is in support of holding off on this position and allocating it toward consultant services.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

**C. 19.134 An Order To Appropriate Stabilization Funds To Police Station Remediation**

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

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

This is a transfer as the order said, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed. He discussed the background in executive session, he reminded.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

**D. 19.135 An Order To Suspend Parking Fees On Certain Days**

Councilor Murphy read the order.

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

This is a recurring request they have made the last several years. They are trying to get it in motion as the holidays are approaching.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.

**5. New Business**

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

None.

City Council Committee on Finance Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2019

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor Sciarra moved to adjourn. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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