

Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Chair
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.
Councilor John Thorpe*

MEETING TO BE CONDUCTED BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

Meeting Date: April 2, 2020

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting will take place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:05 pm.

1. Meeting Called To Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting

A. Minutes Of March 19, 2020

Documents:

[03-19-2020_finance committee minutes.pdf](#)

4. Financial Orders

A. 20.032 An Order To Establish Water And Sewer Rates For FY2021

Documents:

[20.032 an order to establish water and sewer rates for fy2021.pdf](#)

B. 20.035 An Order To Accept A Donation Of Land On Woodland Drive For Housing And Trail Uses

Documents:

[20.035 an order to accept a donation of land on woodland drive for housing and trail uses.pdf](#)

C. 20.036 An Order To Accept A Donation Of Easement For Electric Power To NSH Memorial Park

Documents:

[20.036 an order to accept a donation of easement for electric power to nsh memorial park.pdf](#)

D. 20.038 An Order To Appropriate \$3,000 In CPA Funds To Lathrop Communities For Invasive Species Removal

Documents:

[20.038 an order to appropriate 3,000 in cpa funds to lathrop communities for invasive species removal.pdf](#)

E. 20.039 An Order To Appropriate CPA Funds For Beaver Brook Greenway Invasive Plant Control Project

Documents:

[20.039 an order to appropriate cpa funds for beaver brook greenway invasive plant control project.pdf](#)

F. 20.040 An Order To Approve Gift Fund Expenditures For Emergency COVID19 Expenses

Documents:

[20.040 an order to approve gift fund expenditures for emergency covid19 expenses.pdf](#)

5. New Business

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

6. Adjourn

Contact: *G-L Sciarra* @ glsciarra@northamptonma.gov
or 413-570-3133



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Chair
Councilor Marianne LaBarge, Vice Chair
Councilor Michael J. Quinlan, Jr.
Councilor John Thorpe*

On line Zoom Teleconference Meeting

Meeting Date: March 19, 2020

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 7:51 p.m. Councilor Sciarra called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members Gina-Louise Sciarra (Chair), Marianne LaBarge (Vice-Chair), Michael J. Quinlan, Jr. and John Thorpe. Also present from the City Council were William H. Dwight, Karen Foster, Alex Jarrett and Rachel Maiore. Councilor Jim Nash was absent.
3. **Approval of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
 - A. **Minutes of March 5, 2020**

Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2020. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by voice vote.
4. **Financial Orders**
 - A. **20.033 An Order for FY2020 Budget Transfers**

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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

As they come to the end of the fiscal year they end up doing some of these budgetary transfers, Ms. Wright explained. Councilors will see similar orders from now until the end of June with quite a few expected related to the COVID-19 emergency. The transfer to the City Council budget is mostly due to more than the usual number of councilors attending the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) annual meeting since there are so many new councilors. The two transfers into the City Clerk's budget are for ballot printing and ordinance updates. She suspects more transfers into the City Clerk's budget will be needed once payroll for the recent election is processed.

In response to a question from Councilor LaBarge, Ms. Wright confirmed that the \$7,000 for ballot printing is for ballots for the special municipal election.

City Council Committee on Finance Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2020

Councilor LaBarge asked if additional election workers were needed for the municipal election and, if so, how the city is covering that expense.

Payroll hasn't been completed for that election, so she doesn't yet know if more money will need to be transferred into the personnel budget, Ms. Wright said. The City Clerk hasn't notified her of any other deficits.

Councilor LaBarge asked for additional details about the code updates.

It is to update the existing code with ordinance changes brought forward this fiscal year but she doesn't have other specifics, Ms. Wright said.

Mayor Narkewicz explained for the benefit of the public that the city has a vendor that updates its code of ordinances.

The motion passed unanimously 4 Yes, 0 No by voice vote.

B. 20.034 An Order to Appropriate Free Cash to Public Safety Wireless Project

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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

The IT Department has identified a fairly urgent project to update the wireless system in the public safety buildings, Ms. Wright explained. The project is moving forward before the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) because it needs to be addressed right away.

Councilor Jarrett noted the date is incorrect and needs to be corrected (should be 2020 instead of 2019). The correction was duly noted.

There being no further questions, the motion passed unanimously 4 Yes, 0 No by voice vote.

5. **New Business**

-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.
None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor LaBarge moved to adjourn. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Contact: G-L Sciarra @glsciarra@northamptonma.gov or 413-570-3133

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, March 19, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

20.032 AN ORDER
TO ESTABLISH WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR FY2021

Ordered, that:

Effective July 1, 2020, the per 100 cubic foot (CCF) rates for water and sewer for Fiscal Year 2021 will remain unchanged from Fiscal Year 2020. Rates will remain as follows:

WATER

Customers with 1” meter or smaller

Tier 1 consumption: 0 – 16 CCF \$4.51 per CCF

Tier 2 consumption: >16 CCF \$6.09 per CCF

Customers with meter larger than 1”

All consumption \$5.99 per CCF

SEWER

Non-metered

\$7.86 per CCF based on 80% of metered water consumption (FY19 rate \$7.67)

Metered

\$7.86 per CCF (FY19 rate \$7.67)

City of Northampton MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, April 2, 2020

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

20.035 An Order to Accept a Donation of Land on Woodland Drive for Housing and Trail Uses

WHEREAS, David Teece has offered to donate to the City or its assignees 1.906± acres on Woodland Drive (Map ID 42-031) with a deed in lieu of foreclosure for back real estate taxes, stormwater fees, and all interest in penalties;

WHEREAS, Consistent with the City’s Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan and the Open Space, Recreation, and Multiuse Plan, the property can, subject to final due diligence and to permitting by the Zoning Board, be used for:

1. One first-time homebuyer or affordable home
2. One work-force housing or market rate home
3. A potential parklet that might, in the future, provide a walking and bicycling path a portion of the way from Woodland Lane to Tiffany Lane

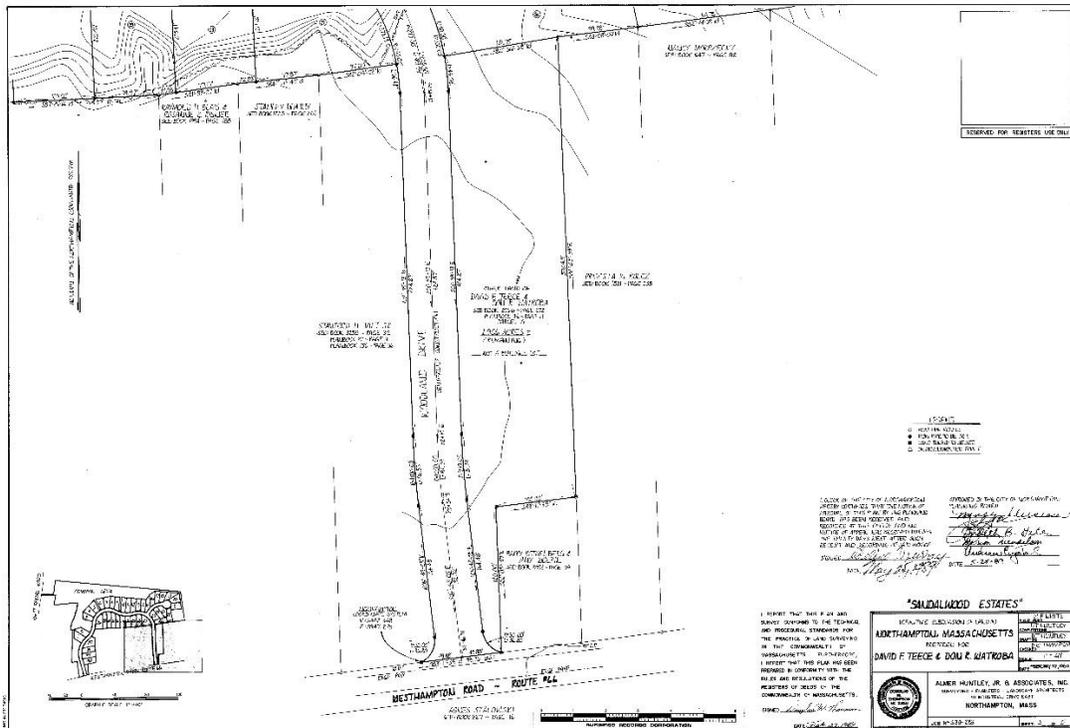
Ordered, that

The Mayor is authorized to accept said deed to the above referenced 1.906± acres;

Further that City Council declares the two potential building lots surplus to City needs;

Further that the Mayor is authorized to transfer deeds for the building lots subject to the city retaining an affordable housing restriction.

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City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, April 2, 2020

Upon the recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz and Planning & Sustainability

20.036 An Order to Accept a Donation of Easement for Electric Power to NSH Memorial Park

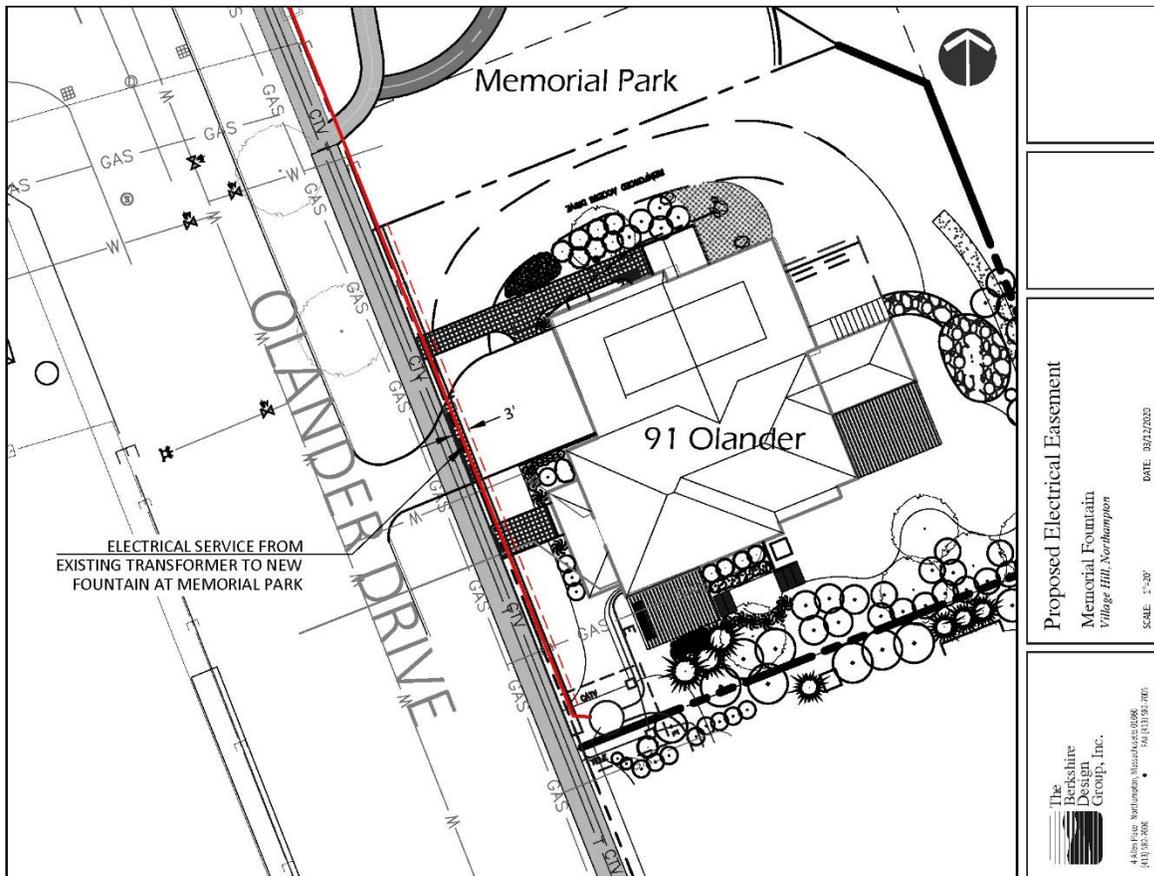
WHEREAS, The City has accepted the Memorial Park at the former Northampton State Hospital to preserve the memory of the State Hospital and its workers and patients; and

WHEREAS, The City's MassWorks grant will fund certain improvements at the Memorial Park, including extending electric power to the historic fountain there;

WHEREAS, Jonathan A. and Margaret K. Wright have offered to donate an easement for said power;

Ordered, that

The Mayor is authorized to accept said easement on behalf of the city.



City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, April 2, 2020

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee

**20.038 An Order to Appropriate \$3,000 in CPA Funds to Lathrop Communities for Invasive Species
Removal**

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, the Lathrop Communities submitted an application for Community Preservation Act Small Grant funding for continued priority invasive species removal at its North and East campuses, on both of which the City holds permanent Conservation Restrictions.

WHEREAS, the project will continue to help improve and preserve the health of sensitive habitats in the Parsons and Broad Brook watersheds, has strong community support, and will continue to leverage private funds and extensive volunteer efforts.

WHEREAS, the project's control and removal of non-native invasive Japanese Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, Winged Euonymus, Garlic Mustard, will complement City efforts to reduce invasives in critical areas.

WHEREAS, the applicant has welcomed public use of its popular trails, and will continue to increase public knowledge of the trails on the property as part of this project.

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2020, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend \$3,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$3,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Lathrop Communities for the Invasives Removal and Education project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$3,000 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council, April 2, 2020

Upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee

20.039 An Order to Appropriate CPA Funds for Beaver Brook Greenway Invasive Plant Control Project

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, the Broad Brook Coalition and Leeds Civic Association submitted an application for Community Preservation Act 'Small Grant' funding for priority invasive species removal within the Beaver Brook Greenway on Haydenville Road;

WHEREAS, the project's control and removal of invasive plants meets goals established by the Northampton Open Space Recreation and Multi-Use Trail Plan, and will promote native grassland habitat of rare and threatened species;

WHEREAS, the applicants have used Community Preservation Act funding at the Greenway effectively in the past, creating interpretive trails and a wildlife blind, matching grant funding with many hours of volunteer labor;

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2020, the Northampton Community Preservation Committee, voted unanimously to recommend \$3,000 in Community Preservation Act funds be used to support this project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That \$3,000 be appropriated from Community Preservation Act funding to the Beaver Brook Greenway Habitat Improvement Project. And, that the grantee meets the conditions approved by the Community Preservation Committee, the Mayor, and City Council.

Specifically, \$3,000 is appropriated from the CPA Budgeted Reserve (account #2344930-359930).

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

April 2, 2020

Upon recommendation of the Mayor

20.040 An Order to Approve Gift Fund Expenditures for Emergency COVID-19 Expenses

Ordered, that

the Northampton City Council in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 A (Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure) authorizes the expenditure of funds donated by the public to be used for any emergency COVID-19 expenses including, but not limited to, the establishment of an emergency shelter to serve vulnerable members of the community who lack housing.