



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*

Online Meeting via Teleconference

Meeting Date: September 2, 2021

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 June 17, 2021 And August 19, 2021

Documents:

[06-17-2021_finance committee minutes.pdf](#)
[08-19-2021_finance committee minutes.pdf](#)

- 4. Financial Orders**
- 5. New Business**
-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.
- 6. Adjourn**

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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 Meeting

Meeting Date: June 17, 2021

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during a City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 12:17 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, Alex Jarrett, Karen Foster, Rachel Maiore and Jim Nash. Also present were Mayor David Narkewicz, Finance Director Susan Wright and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
3. **Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2021**
Councilor Quinlan moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2021 and May 6, 2021. Councilor LaBarge seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.
4. **FINANCIAL ORDERS**
 - A. **21.294 An Order To Reprogram Surplus From CS Forbes Library Windows To Forbes HVAC Project**

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation.

Councilor LaBarge seconded.

As stated in the order, financial officers want to move money from a prior and completed capital project at Forbes Library to an ongoing project for the HVAC system on the ground floor funded in the FY2021 to FY2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Finance Director Wright explained.

There being no further questions, the motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

- B. **21.296 An Order For FY2021 Budget Transfers**

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

These are all existing accounts in the FY2021 budget, Director Wright confirmed. They are just moving money from line items with surplus funds to line items that need shoring up.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

C. 21.297 An Order To Authorize Damon Road Sewer Line Taking

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

The administrative assistant screen-shared the plan. The lines shown on the map in turquoise are privately-owned sewer force mains which eventually join the city's gravity-fed system, Director LaScaleia explained. The two turquoise sewer mains run just under 500 linear feet and serve the two properties on either side of Damon Road. They are at the end of their services lives and are made out of asbestos cement, which is not a material they like to see under a roadway. They are trying to take ownership of these lines so they can replace them as part of the Damon Road reconstruction project, after which the city will continue to have responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the lines.

The liability of having these private sewer lines in a public right of way is considerable, she stressed. No easements were ever granted to the private owners, and they have to consider the ability of a private entity to effect a repair in the event something were to go wrong. As a major arterial right-of-way, any disruption of travel on Damon Road is quite impactful. The responsible thing to do is to upgrade these lines to potentially serve other businesses. It is in the city's best interest.

There is a time constraint since the construction is underway, so they would like to get two readings on this tonight if possible, Mayor Narkewicz said. It is a friendly taking, he assured.

It is somewhat analogous to private streets that were never part of the public way, Mayor Narkewicz added. He doesn't even know how these were put under Damon Road without an easement. The reality is that the city would likely end up dealing with a break in the line anyways. He feels like they are really correcting a historical issue. He thinks it is the prudent thing to do.

If there were a sewer main break there and the city had to fix it, suddenly, the brand new layer of pavement would also have to come up, Councilor Quinlan pointed out.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

5. New Business

None.

6. Adjourn: There being no further business, Councilor Quinlan moved to adjourn. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

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

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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 Meeting

Meeting Date: August 19, 2021

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during a City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 8:02 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, Alex Jarrett, Karen Foster, Rachel Maiore and Jim Nash. Also present were Mayor David Narkewicz, Finance Director Charlene Nardi and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
3. **Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2020 and November 12, 2020 (never accepted), June 17, 2021 and July 15, 2021**
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2020, November 12, 2020, June 17, 2021 and July 15, 2021. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

Councilor Jarrett pointed out that, instead of June 17th, the minutes attached to the agenda were actually those of June 7, 2021.

Councilor LaBarge amended her motion to approve the minutes of June 7, 2021 instead of June 17, 2021. The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

4. **FINANCIAL ORDERS**
 - A. **21.305 An Order to Reprogram CS Surplus Funds To CS 2005 Vehicle Replacement**
Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Central Services Director David Pomerantz has noted that there wasn't enough funding in the original appropriation for this vehicle so he is asking for additional funds to cover the extra cost, Director Nardi explained. The cost of vehicles has gone up due to COVID.

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Mayor Narkewicz said he believed it is one of the larger Ford Transit vans.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

B. 21.306 An Order to Appropriate Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Funds To Hotel Bridge Improvements

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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

Her husband and his whole family was born and raised in Leeds and love that bridge, Councilor LaBarge shared. To see it not being used is very heart-breaking to many older residents. She is very honored to support this.

Mayor Narkewicz said this is rideshare money which they have appropriated in the past to transportation projects. The first bid on the Hotel Bridge was not successful so the city will be going back out to bid.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

C. 21.307 An Order To Reprogram \$15,000 From Safety Village Surplus To Sheldon Field Dugout Replacement

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

Mayor Narkewicz confirmed that this is to replace the existing wooden structures.

This council received an email from Jeff Payne from Northampton Baseball and Softball regarding the condition of the fields, Councilor Quinlan reminded. He knows some of the softball players there now are even concerned about the fields' condition. He is hoping they may see some money allocated toward that.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

D. 21.308 An Order To Reprogram Funds For Safety Netting For Florence Recreation Fields

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

E. 21.309 An Order To Authorize Spending \$2,577.62 From Equipment Firefighting Donation Account On UTV And Trailer

Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor Thorpe seconded.

The Utility Vehicle (UTV) is replacing a 1998 All -Terrain Vehicle (ATV) which was approved as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Mayor Narkewicz explained. What councilors are seeing is projects approved as part of the capital plan coming in a little more expensive than estimated, he added. The chief is using money from a donation account to cover the additional cost.

Councilor LaBarge recalled there was a fire on Turkey Hill Road in 1998. The Northampton Fire Department did not have an ATV at the time, and ATV's were coming in from out of town to help access the fire. The ice cream bikers came to her and said they were willing to hold a fundraising event to purchase an ATV. The fire department was so happy to receive that ATV. Also, residents on Turkey Hill Road donated money for a safety bed to be used to transport injured people, so there is a history there.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

F. 21.314 An Order To Reprogram Funds For Florence Fire Station Repaving
Councilor Sciarra read the order.

Councilor Quinlan moved to forward the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation. Councilor LaBarge seconded.

The motion passed unanimously 4:0 by roll call vote.

5. **New Business**

None.

6. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Councilor Quinlan moved to adjourn. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 4 Yes, 0 No. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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