



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.

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