



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: December 16, 2021

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 8:14 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, Office of Planning and Sustainability (OPS) Director Wayne Feiden and Administrative Assistant Laura Krutzler.
3. **Approval of Minutes of December 2, 2021**
Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2021. Councilor Thorpe seconded. The motion passed 4:0 by roll call vote.
4. **FINANCIAL ORDERS**
 - A. **21.375 An Order Authorizing A Five-Year Contract For Connecticut River Channel Marking**
Councilor Sciarra read the order.

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

He learned when he started as mayor that Northampton leads a consortium of communities in overseeing the maintenance of channel markers in the Connecticut River, Mayor Narkewicz advised. Channel markers are maintained by the towns along the river - namely Holyoke, Northampton, Easthampton, Hadley and South Hadley - with each of the towns contributing toward the cost. There is a contract that has to be renewed with a private vendor, and they can get a more favorable contract by going with a 5-year contract. Anything more than a three-year contract requires City Council approval, he explained.

Councilor Sciarra said now she has earned that they lead this consortium.

City Council Committee on Finance Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2021

In response to a question about cost, Office of Planning and Sustainability (OPS) Director Wayne Feiden said channel markers are about \$600 each. They have been lucky; they have gotten a couple of grants. They just got a grant for a canoe trail with \$10,000 included to fix some of markers. The five-year contract is to allow them to request better prices and to allow the vendor to absorb costs. Each contract is subject to appropriation so if for some reason a storm comes and the city can't afford to do the work they won't do channel markers. The river is marked from just north of Elwell Island all the way down to the Holyoke dam.

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

5. **New Business**

None.

6. **Adjourn:** 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 8:19 p.m.

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